

MALAYSIA: STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROSELI ABDUL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 107TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Director-General Ambassador Arias,

Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation aligns with the statement by Uganda on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. Additionally, I would like to offer a few remarks in my national capacity on some important issues being addressed by our organisation.

Mr. Chair,

2. My delegation has carefully reviewed the reports pertaining to the elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, including the detailed account of activities undertaken during the 28th round of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team and the Syrian National Authority in September 2024 in Damascus. In this connection, we reiterate our call on both parties to maintain constructive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues.

3. We have also taken note of the latest progress reports concerning the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons and the recent visit to the Haerbaling Destruction Site and other sites in China. This marks an important step forward, but the task remains unfinished. We reiterate our call for the complete and timely destruction of all such weapons, in full compliance with the obligations set forth by the Convention. Their elimination is not just a legal obligation but a moral imperative to ensure future generations are free from the risk of chemical contamination and environmental degradation.

4. With regard to the ongoing brutal conflict in Gaza and the West Bank, Malaysia strongly condemns the genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel continues to perpetrate with impunity. Moreover, we are deeply concerned by reports indicating that the Israeli regime has used internationally prohibited weapons, including chemical weapons in Gaza. We noted the DG's statement on this issue this morning. Additionally, we emphasize the State of Palestine's request for continued and comprehensive monitoring and investigation of this critical matter.

Mr. Chair,

5. Furthering our commitment to international cooperation, Malaysia successfully hosted the 12th OPCW Regional Advance Course on Emergency Response for First Responders in Asia in August 2024, facilitating the exchange of best practices and forging stronger networks among participants.

6. We also look forward to welcoming Sri Lanka's delegation on 21 October 2024, as part of the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme. This initiative exemplifies our dedication to fostering knowledge transfer and building capacity among States Parties. Additionally, Malaysia contributed its expertise to the *"Effective Customs Control over the Trade and Transit of Toxic Chemicals in the Pacific Region"* conference held in Vanuatu last month, reinforcing our regional engagement and support for implementing the Convention.

7. Malaysia will also co-host the Project 98 Kick-off Regional Workshop, in collaboration with the EU Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence Initiative (EU CBRN CoE), from 22 to 24 October 2024. This regional initiative seeks to enhance CBRN medical emergency preparedness and response across Southeast Asia, with the goal of mitigating the health impacts of CBRN-related incidents, crises, and events.

8. Regarding Artificial Intelligence and its intersection with CWC implementation, my delegation is of the view that this evolving technology offers transformative potential while also presenting inherent risks. In this regard, Malaysia will be participating in the upcoming Global Conference on AI in Rabat later this month. Our participation underscores Malaysia's strong support for the OPCW's ongoing efforts to address emerging challenges in chemical disarmament and security. My delegation emphasizes the need for continuous analysis and collaborative efforts to fully understand and prepare for AI's long-term implications on the Convention, ensuring that we harness its benefits while mitigating potential threats to international peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Executive Council session and published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.