



**NEW ZEALAND
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SUSANNAH GORDON
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF NEW ZEALAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE 107th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Thank you, Mr Chair,

The Council is asked to roll over the tenure and rehiring provisions related to inspectors.

Last year, during the facilitation on tenure that I coordinated with the Ambassador of Panama, Elizabeth Ward Neiman, this issue arose. There was agreement around the membership that the provisions for the inspectorate around tenure and rehiring were working well. For that reason, these TS staff were not covered by the 2023 revised tenure policy.

It is my sense, as facilitator, that the roll-over of the provisions for the inspectorate in due course was generally expected, so it's good to see it before us now.

Mr Chair,

Last year, building on the goodwill from the 5th Review Conference, we demonstrated that there is room for consensus among the OPCW membership in agreeing a revised tenure policy. I am very grateful for the understanding, flexibility, and goodwill shown by states parties which engaged on this issue last year. It showed that we all collectively care about our Organisation and will support it to be effective. This in turn is a demonstration, collectively, of our commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We had great engagement across the membership last year and we agreed some limited changes to the tenure policy by consensus. This seems to be another area where we could look to find some further consensus amongst us all, as follow up to our Review Conference.

Thank you.