



**Statement of Ambassador Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of
Germany to the OPCW during EC-108
under agenda 8 - Emerging Technologies**

States Parties place their trust in the OPCW because it holds the promise of verification and exposure of non-compliance. In order to be able to live up to this promise and to remain fit for purpose, it needs to be abreast of developments in science and technologies, especially as regards emerging technologies including AI, and to have effective technological instruments at its disposal.

We are grateful to the DG because, thanks to his foresight, the OPCW started putting a focus on the question on the possible impact of emerging technologies on the work of the OPCW very early.

Discussions at the OPCW on this complex question have covered a lot of ground since. Recently, the Technical Secretariat produced a very comprehensive note on the current state of the discussions, and Germany would like to compliment the TS on that. The note does not only provide a valuable assessment of both risks and opportunities Emerging Technologies and especially AI pose to the work of the OPCW. By outlining the next operational steps, it also gives guidance for the future work.

In this vein, we welcome the creation of the SAB Temporary Working Group. We are pleased that Dr. Müller-Buschbaum, the SAB member from Germany, was selected to chair the Working Group. We believe it would be very beneficial for the Council to receive regular briefings from the Working Group on its work.

Mr. Chairperson,

Concluding, I would like to remind States Parties, that Artificial intelligence does not only contain risks, it also holds great promise, especially when applied to data publicly available. It can sift through available data, both data repositied in the Technical Secretariat, and available openly, and find patterns, for example of suspicious trades, which a human eye might overlook.

Chair, to conclude, in age of emerging technologies, Germany remains committed to supporting the OPCW in delivering on its mandate and is looking for the continuation of our exchange on these complex but highly important issues.

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