



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. MARGARETA KASSANGANA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF POLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE 108th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 4 - 7 March 2025)**

Agenda item 8: Emerging technologies

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Serbia, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union welcomes the work undertaken by the Secretariat to map out the ramifications of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its associated risks and opportunities to the object and purpose of the Convention. We believe this should continue to be an inclusive process with active participation of all States Parties and input from external experts and civil society.

We welcome that the SAB's Temporary Working Group for AI has taken up its work in January 2025. In a field as dynamic as AI, it is of utmost importance that the current state of research and AI applications are thoroughly and continuously monitored and assessed by experts.

The "Global Conference on the role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention" which was held in Rabat, Morocco in October 2024 was an excellent opportunity to deepen the collective understanding of the challenge at hand. The Secretariat note regarding the "Path Forward" (S/2360/2025 of 29 January 2025) is a valuable reference for considering next steps in the OPCW context.

The European Union stands ready to support further efforts to inform future policy discussions and decisions, including by sharing information, e.g. on the implementation of the unique and comprehensive European Union AI legislation, the "AI Act".

Given the speed at which AI systems are being developed, it is of paramount importance that the Secretariat continuously monitors potential risks, as well as identifies opportunities to apply AI technologies to the work of the OPCW. In this context, the EU was pleased co-finance with the United Kingdom the AI Research Challenge as part of the EU's voluntary financial contribution in support of OPCW activities.

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