

Right-of-Reply delivered by Ambassador Thomas Schieb
Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the
OPCW

CSP-28 under agenda item “general debate”

Mr Chairperson,

We have been listening to a range of statements that were made with regard to the on-going tragedy in the Middle East. My delegation would like to recall that this tragedy was caused by an unprecedented terrorist attack carried out by Hamas, killing hundreds of innocent civilians, including women and children. Like any other state, Israel has the right to defend itself against terrorism in accordance with its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law.

We note the concerns raised by some delegations about the possible use of chemical weapons in this conflict. We consider that there have been no indications for the use of chemical weapons so far. It is not within the mandate of this Organization to look at the use of other weapons not covered by the CWC in this conflict. We note the affirmation by the Ambassador of Israel to the Netherlands in his letter to Director-General Arias dated 21 November 2023 that Israel, a signatory state of the Convention, „shares the values, norms and goals that the CWC promotes“. We recall in this context the importance of universal, full adherence to the Convention.

With regard to statements made in our debate, my delegation would like to make one final, but important point. We are extremely concerned by the deepening humanitarian crisis in Gaza. However, we consider comparisons with the Nazi holocaust and genocide against the Jewish people completely inappropriate and unacceptable. They are abhorrent and do not in any way contribute to an end and a much-needed solution to the conflict.
