



**OPCW**

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**EL SALVADOR**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Conference Chairperson,  
Your Excellency, Director-General,  
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives,  
Members and observers of the Conference,  
Distinguished authorities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

The delegation of El Salvador congratulates Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen on his election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the States Parties, as well as the other members of the Bureau. We would also like to commend the excellent work of Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference.

Likewise, we express our recognition of Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki, Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Technical Secretariat, for his tireless efforts in support of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My country reiterates its full commitment to general and complete disarmament, joining all those efforts towards the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons, no matter by whom or what the circumstances are. This brings us to advocate for greater universality of the Convention.

The political will of the Government of El Salvador in support of the implementation of the Convention was highlighted this year through the visit of Vice-Chairperson Dr Félix Ulloa, during which he underscored the need for countries like El Salvador to be able to count on targeted international cooperation, facilitating the exchange of scientific and technical information for the peaceful use of chemicals.

For the authorities of El Salvador, the convenience of strengthening the National Authority was made evident, as it permits broader participation of various actors and decision makers in aspects such as customs, laboratories, and security, among others.

On this occasion, my delegation would like to express appreciation for the prompt cooperation that the OPCW has provided to our Ministry of Defence in its capacity as National Authority to develop reforms of the National Law on Weapons, which is currently in the process of being presented to our Legislative Assembly.



As such, with the revision process of the Convention and the future of the Organisation in mind, my country believes it is important to broaden cooperation and assistance in support of the States Parties. It is of particular interest that this cooperation focus on providing greater capacities to the various actors involved in the storage and peaceful use of chemicals.

Likewise, El Salvador supports and wishes to join the discussion on and scientific investigation into the use of aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals.

We have taken note of the results presented by the Director-General concerning the investigations into the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as the progress in and clarification of the events, which is why we are in favour of greater rapprochement between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities.

With regard to the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, a laudable initiative of the Director-General, El Salvador would like to express its expectation that the Centre will make it possible to strengthen the capacities for chemical investigation, analysis, and training for the Member States.

We reiterate our concern regarding the reduced representation held by the Latin American and Caribbean region within the personnel of the Technical Secretariat; as such, we join the countries of our region in urging that a strategy be developed in order to achieve balanced geographical distribution at the OPCW.

Finally, as a country that aspires to be re-elected to the Executive Council, El Salvador reaffirms its commitment to encourage dialogue and consensus among the States Parties to support the actions and initiatives that are aligned with the spirit of the Convention.

The delegation of El Salvador requests that this statement be considered an official document of this Twenty-Sixth Conference of the States Parties and published on the Organisation's website and the Catalyst platform.

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