



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.48
29 November 2021
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR HISSA ABDULLA ALOTAIBA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Your Excellency, Director-General of the OPCW,
Excellencies, heads of delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

On behalf of the delegation of the State of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me pleasure and honour to congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, on your election as Chairperson of the current session of the Conference. I wish you full success in your mission.

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, and to express our thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his invaluable efforts, as well as to the team of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for their ongoing efforts to promote the role of the Organisation and achieve the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates appreciates the efforts made by the Committee of the Whole and the OPCW Technical Secretariat staff in preparation for this Conference despite the outbreak of the pandemic and the extraordinary period we are going through. We wish this and all upcoming sessions a successful outcome.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms, and standards of international law.

The State of the United Arab Emirates is keen on implementing its obligations under the Convention and believes firmly in the objectives of the Convention, through which the entire world affirmed its determination to work for effective progress towards full disarmament and the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction for a safe life for humanity as a whole. The destruction of 98% of the declared chemical weapons is an important step towards a world free of chemical weapons.



The United Arab Emirates has reviewed the Director-General's reports on the progress made in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and we hope that cooperation will continue between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic in all issues.

The State of the United Arab Emirates supports the decision of the Executive Council of the OPCW on the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, which represents a threat to the object and purpose of the Convention. We stress the need to hold accountable any actor which engages or attempts to engage in such activities. The State of the United Arab Emirates also supports the ongoing work of the subworking group on non-State actors of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the use of central nervous system-acting chemicals is inconsistent with law enforcement purposes as a "purpose not prohibited" under the Convention. It calls for support for the draft decision entitled "Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes". We emphasise that the decision takes into account the provisions of the Convention and the reports of the Scientific Advisory Board and aims to ensure compliance with the provisions of international humanitarian law and a safe life for humanity as a whole.

The State of the United Arab Emirates appreciates the efforts of the co-facilitators for the OPCW budget (the Republic of Poland and the Swiss Confederation), aimed at preparing the OPCW budget for the biennium 2022-2023 and conducting consultations with States Parties through regional groups. We reaffirm our support for the draft decision on the OPCW budget and stress that the aim is to finance the programmes and activities of the Organisation and to enable it to implement its mandate effectively. We call upon all States Parties to support the draft decision.

The State of the United Arab Emirates extends its thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his efforts over the past period to implement and achieve the objectives of the Convention and affirms its support for his re-election for a second term of office, wishing him success in his duties in the next period.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms its eagerness to implement its obligations under Article VII of the Convention and to cooperate with other States Parties in this regard in order to enhance national capacities.

Also, the State of the United Arab Emirates stresses the need to strengthen the capacities of the Technical Secretariat to respond to requests for assistance under Article X of the Convention, support capacity-building programmes in States Parties, and help support the Technical Secretariat's preparedness to provide appropriate, effective, and timely assistance.

The State of the United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention and stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation in economic and technological development and chemical activities among States Parties for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. The State of the United Arab Emirates emphasises the importance of promoting and accelerating States Parties' economic and technological development.

The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses that the universality of the Convention is critical to achieving its objectives and that the accession of 193 States to the Convention is an important step towards achieving its universality. The OPCW's efforts and continuous endeavour to ensure the universality of the Convention constitute an effective contribution to the promotion of international peace and security.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its commitment to cooperating with the OPCW and the States Parties towards achieving the objectives of the Organisation and ensuring the effective implementation of the Convention. It reaffirms its commitment to the OPCW and its keenness to implement its obligations under the Convention in the interest of international peace and security.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the external server and public website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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