



OPCW

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

ARGENTINA

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

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Esteemed colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to thank Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico for his performance as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and welcome the new authorities and reaffirm Argentina's commitment to collaborate on building a consensus as it takes on one of the regional vice-chairmanships for GRULAC at the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Likewise, Argentina wishes to express its support and recognition of the work of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat.

I reiterate the unequivocal commitment of Argentina to the policies of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as international cooperation and the need to guarantee the sovereign right to research and development of technologies with peaceful purposes in accordance with international commitments and national legislation.

I once again express the position that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a blatant violation of the international obligations set out in the Convention and international law; in this context, I express concern regarding the issues that as yet remain unresolved.

At the same time, I underscore the importance of making progress in the verification of the complete elimination of chemical weapons and I call upon all States to meet their obligations under the Convention and the decisions of the Organisation.

With regard to the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022 – 2023, Argentina reiterates that the decision to support it was made based on the circumstances at hand, which entail an exception to the zero nominal-growth policy and undertaking a major effort, bearing in mind the situation of our country within the context of the pandemic.

In addition, I would like to express my satisfaction with the renewal of the mandate of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and I congratulate him on his renewed appointment.



I would like to conclude by calling upon all the States Parties to the Convention to work together and build the consensus necessary to move forward to a world free of chemical weapons in accordance with all the provisions of the Convention.

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