



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.80
30 November 2021
ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

ARMENIA

**JOINT STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF
THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANIZATION DELIVERED BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

The Member States of the CSTO, as responsible parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”), strongly declares its commitment to a world free of chemical weapons and decisively condemns the use thereof, including in armed conflicts.

The Member States underscore the need to maintain the technical tenor of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and, in this regard, they note the danger of politicising its agenda through forcing a one-sided vision of the norms of international law, including the loose interpretation of the provisions of the Convention without taking into account the opinions of all States Parties. They note that the authorities of the Technical Secretariat should not go beyond the scope of the clearly defined provisions of the Convention. The Member States also believe that taking decisions to deprive States Parties to the Convention of their rights must be done exclusively based on reliable, proven facts and findings, rather than, as in this case, the reports—which give rise to a multitude of questions—of the Investigation and Identification Team, which has attribution functions and was established under the Technical Secretariat in circumvention of the provisions of the Convention.

We firmly believe that the work of the special OPCW missions in Syria, established per the agreement of the Government of said country, must follow the letter and spirit of the Convention. Any deviation from these requirements is impermissible.

The CSTO Member States recognise the serious problem with using the OPCW as a platform to spread unsubstantiated information asserting the use of chemical weapons. They underscore the need to maintain objectivity and impartiality of the Technical Secretariat in terms of responding to statements from States Parties to the Convention regarding the alleged use of chemical weapons in armed conflicts.

The CSTO Member States call upon the States Parties to the Convention to truly cooperate via the exchange of information and consultations among themselves within the framework of the Convention and other relevant existing international mechanisms in which they are participants, especially those concerning the provision of legal assistance.



The Member States of the CSTO proceed from the fact that any proposals that reach beyond the scope of the Convention must be carried out strictly in line with the provisions of Article XV thereof. They call upon the initiators of the draft “Understanding” on aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes to unwaveringly follow the provisions of said international document.

The CSTO Member States express their confidence that the effective operation of the OPCW largely depends on the professional, apolitical, and independent nature of the work of the Technical Secretariat. They speak in favour of maintaining and strengthening its expert potential, and improving the knowledge transfer system while staunchly observing broad geographical representation. A large share of responsibility for the Secretariat’s activities falls upon the shoulders of the Director-General, whose primary task is to safeguard the integrity of the Convention, uphold its provisions, and work to strengthen the authority of the Organisation.

The Member States of the CSTO call upon the States Parties to the Convention to cooperate constructively with one another, to strive to restore the spirit of consensus and equality within the OPCW in the interests of the integrity and universality of the Convention. This approach is a fundamental condition for achieving the universality of the scope of the Convention, which remains one of the cornerstone treaties in the architecture of international security and disarmament.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on Catalyst and the OPCW website.

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