



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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## **ECUADOR**

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANDRÉS TERÁN PARRAL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties,  
Mr Director-General of the OPCW and members of the Technical Secretariat,  
Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of the Republic of Ecuador wishes to begin this statement expressing to H.E. Bård Ivar Svendsen, Ambassador of Norway, our congratulations and support on his management as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Likewise, we welcome H.E. José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo, Ambassador of Mexico, for his excellent leadership as Chairperson of the previous session of the Conference. We would also express appreciation for the important work carried out by H.E. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of Morocco, as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

On this same note, this delegation wishes to welcome H.E. Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, and the Technical Secretariat for their work over this last period between sessions of the Conference of the States Parties, as well as their preparations for this session of the Conference in light of the current extraordinary circumstances we are experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, loyal to our principles and international policy in this area, Ecuador condemns the use of chemical weapons in the strongest possible terms. It firmly maintains its conviction regarding the prohibition and complete elimination of this category of weapons of mass destruction as the Organisation's top priority. This delegation wishes to reiterate Ecuador's commitment to the work of the OPCW in implementing its important mandate, and expresses its gratitude for the efforts and work carried out in due compliance with this objective.

Ecuador strongly believes that there is no justification whatsoever for the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals against any person, anywhere, or under any circumstances. Regrettably, the threats facing the international community linked to the use of chemical weapons are becoming ever more pressing.

In this new international context, Ecuador, in connection with the values and principles that guide its international policy in relation to the Convention, believes it is fundamental to work collaboratively in order to establish mechanisms to prevent and respond to the undesired re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons. In this regard, my country supports the technical work of the OPCW in working towards these important objectives.



With regard to the information provided by the Director-General on the destruction of chemical weapons at the global level, Ecuador notes the progress that has been made and believes it is still necessary to intensify cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to resolve outstanding matters and prevent any non-compliance with the Convention.

In this regard, Ecuador reiterates its support for the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) concerning the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Ecuador trusts that the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat will continue to facilitate their cooperation and efforts to work together with the Syrian authorities to ensure compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and other relevant decisions of the Conference and the Executive Council.

Ecuador supports the allocation of sufficient economic resources for implementing the mandate assigned to the OPCW in spite of the serious economic impact caused by the pandemic. Our country advocates for the adequate distribution and rationalisation of the use of available funds with the best possible efficiency, as well as observance of the mandate of the Convention concerning gender parity and balanced geographical representation among the staff of the Technical Secretariat.

Ecuador supports strengthening multilateralism and believes that the mandate of specialised international organisations such as the OPCW should be maintained within their eminently technical, impartial, and independent nature.

Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

Thank you.

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