



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**STATE OF PALESTINE**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE OPCW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION FOR 2020**

Mr Chairperson,

We wish to begin by extending our heartfelt thanks to the Technical Secretariat for its efforts in preparing the “Draft Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction in 2020”.

My country’s delegation abstained from voting on the annual draft report of the OPCW on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in 2020 (EC-97/2 C-26/CRP.1, dated 7 July 2021) despite its support for most of the report, with reservations on some paragraphs related to the activities and inconclusive findings of the Investigation and Identification Team. We have previously affirmed during the various meetings held by both the Executive Council and the Conference that the State of Palestine does not recognise any mechanisms established outside the legal mandate of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

On many occasions, our delegation has affirmed that identification activities are not provided for in the Convention and that the decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018), which was adopted at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties, falls beyond the powers of the Conference and is an exclusive power of the United Nations Security Council.

Consequently, while we fully support the implementation of all the provisions of the Convention and express our great appreciation for the efforts undertaken by the OPCW’s Director-General and his team in the Technical Secretariat, we reaffirm the need to restore the spirit of constructive cooperation among international parties, far from politicisation and polarisation and the need to restore consensus decision making. This is because consensus is the only guarantee for preserving the credibility of the Convention and the OPCW.

We request that this statement be considered an official document of the Conference and posted on the Organisation’s public website and Catalyst.

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