



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Ninth Session

8 – 10 March 2022

EC-99/NAT.82

8 March 2022

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HERNÁN SALINAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,

First, we wish to congratulate the Ambassador of Germany, Ms Gudrun Lingner, and thank her for her work as Chairperson of the Executive Council since the departure of Ambassador Bellouki. Likewise, we express our sincere wishes of success for the new Chairperson, Ms Eniola Olaitan Ajayi, Ambassador of Nigeria.

We also welcome the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the achievements noted in his report on the activities developed by the Organisation. We are pleased with his re-election as Director-General, which will allow work to continue towards achieving the objectives that were set at the start of his first mandate, and finalising the projects that are currently under way, including the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

The preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention reaffirms the commitment of all States Parties to contribute to the implementation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter—among others, to maintain international peace and security, build friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and peoples' free will, resolve international disputes through peaceful means in such a way so as not to put international peace, security, and justice at risk, and prevent the recurrence of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, in any other way that is incompatible with the goals of the United Nations.

As before, Chile expresses its condemnation of the aggression against Ukraine on the part of Russia, in spite of the reiterated calls by the international community for a dialogue aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the conflict, as set out in Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. Chile calls upon Russia to withdraw its troops, respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, and avoid the loss of innocent lives and material damages by respecting the Geneva Conventions.

Chile hopes that dialogue and negotiations will prevail and prevent a greater escalation of this conflict, which threatens international peace and security.



Chile reaffirms its commitment to the total prohibition of the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances. Their use is unacceptable and constitutes a major violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We hope that all States Parties, especially those involved in conflicts, will meet their international obligations in this area.

Concerning the chemical dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, we are concerned that since the adoption of decision C-25/DEC.9 last April, whereby the Conference decided to suspend some of the rights and privileges of said country in accordance with the Convention, difficulties have emerged for the deployment of OPCW officials to Damascus, which hinders the Technical Secretariat from maintaining a continued presence in that city.

We would recall the obligations of each State Party to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in line with paragraph 7, Article VII of the Convention. For this reason, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the Technical Secretariat by providing the pertinent documents and information in order to update its initial declaration, correcting the gaps and inconsistencies, including the 20 outstanding questions, and issuing visas to all OPCW personnel in a timely manner, which will make it possible to add fluidity and continuity to this process.

Finally, we hope that the meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Foreign Affairs Minister of the Syrian Arab Republic will soon take place. Nine months have passed since the Director-General suggested holding this meeting—sufficient time to prepare for it and hold it.

With regard to the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with a toxic novichok chemical, which has been proven by OPCW laboratories, Chile condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of any chemical weapon. We reiterate our urgent call to investigate the circumstances of this incident, identify the perpetrators, and bring them to justice.

With regard to the draft decision on the personnel policy, we welcome the work carried out by the facilitators, the Ambassadors of Australia and Panama. My country wishes to reaffirm the concerns expressed in the statement by GRULAC members of the Executive Council on 24 September 2021. The most recent revision of the draft (Rev. 4), dated 26 January 2022, does not address the fundamental concerns expressed by the GRULAC members of the Council.

The personnel policy and geographic representation across the composition of the Technical Secretariat are two issues that cannot be seen as separate. In this regard, the discussions on the personnel policy should be held in parallel with those aimed at correcting the imbalance in geographic representation.

Chile expresses its willingness to continue the discussions and the study of the personnel policy, and hopes that the interests that are key to the under-represented States Parties will be safeguarded, and that—more importantly—once progress has been made, the imbalance in geographic representation can be corrected, in line with the provisions of paragraph 44, Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We welcome the recommendation formulated at the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to establish a working group to begin preparations for the Fifth Review Conference.

Finally, we wish to thank the Conference of the States Parties for electing Chile to be a member of the Executive Council for the period of 2022 – 2024. They should feel confident that we will continue to work via dialogue and cooperation towards the objectives set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.

--- 0 ---