



**OPCW**

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**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER MAURICIO TORRES CÓRDOVA CHARGÉ  
D'AFFAIRES A.I. AND ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Distinguished representatives,  
Delegates,

Your Excellency, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, Mr Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, I express the support of the Government of Mexico for your appointment as Chairperson of the Executive Council.

Likewise, the Mexican delegation wishes to recognise the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the work carried out to promote universality and the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We also welcome the reports by the Director-General and the Vice-Chairpersons of this Executive Council on the state of OPCW activities. We also recognise and appreciate the professionalism of the Technical Secretariat.

In the 25 years since the establishment of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the States Parties have dedicated formidable efforts to the task of applying the noble objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In spite of the differences that have challenged the adoption of consensus-based decisions, today, the delegation of Mexico congratulates and recognises the undeniable achievement in responding to the commitment to eliminate this type of weapon. In this regard, we trust that the United States of America will meet its established goal on time and that next year, we will be able to celebrate this important milestone. Likewise, we hope to see the continuation of the work in the People's Republic of China so that we will soon have a second achievement to celebrate.

Nevertheless, it is crucial that efforts continue to ensure that the States that have not yet joined the Organisation are able to do so, with the objective of advancing towards a world that is safer, free of chemical weapons, and with the aim of using chemistry exclusively for peaceful purposes.

The Government of Mexico reaffirms its commitment to international peace and security, as well as the destruction of all weapons of mass destruction. For this reason, my country condemns the use of any chemical weapon, including central nervous system-acting aerosols, and underscores that no circumstance justifies their use, as it is contrary to international law, humanitarian law, and undermines treaties and multilateral institutions.



Mexico is convinced that the Convention is the most successful international legal instrument in the field of disarmament. For this reason, my country strongly supports the work of the OPCW and expresses its commitment to contribute to the success of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

With regard to the Syrian chemical weapons destruction programme, Mexico aligns itself with the opinion of the High Representative of the United Nations for Disarmament Issues: it is necessary to “have confidence that it is possible to reactivate cooperation between Syria and the OPCW”. In this regard, my country calls upon the Syrian authorities to optimise their cooperation with the OPCW and to be more transparent, in order to be able to hold the twenty-fifth round of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team and the Syrian National Authority.

On another subject, the Government of Mexico supports the modernisation of the OPCW laboratory through its conversion into the Centre for Chemistry and Technology. My country fully trusts that it will strengthen the scientific and technological capabilities of the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to respond to the threat of chemical weapons.

In this regard, it is substantial that said Centre will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experience, with a view to integrating professionals from all geographical areas—above all, those that are underrepresented, such as Latin America, the Caribbean, and Africa—into the structure of the OPCW.

Finally, my Government condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, which constitutes a violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations. Mexico observes with profound concern the accusations made by both parties to the conflict regarding the possible use of chemical weapons. Facing this situation, my country wishes to express its recognition of the responsible, independent, and impartial work of the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, while recalling the mandate conferred to the Organisation to investigate any suspected use of this type of weapon.

It is 2022—25 years since the entry-into-force of the historical Chemical Weapons Convention; Mexico highlights the importance of this instrument in the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemical products as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances.

I kindly request that this statement be considered a public and official document and published on Catalyst and the OPCW’s official website.

Thank you.

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