



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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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 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Council,  
Mr Director-General of the OPCW and members of the Technical Secretariat,  
Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Ecuador wishes to begin this statement expressing its recognition of the work conducted by H.E. Eniola Olaitan Ajayi, Ambassador of Nigeria, who served as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) over the past months for the period corresponding to the Africa Group. Likewise, this delegation wishes to welcome the new Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; we express our support for your mandate as Chairperson.

We also extend greetings to H.E. Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, and the Technical Secretariat.

Consistent with our foreign policy, Ecuador wishes to begin this statement condemning in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons and expressing that no justification whatsoever exists for the use of weapons and toxic chemicals against anyone, anywhere, or under any circumstances. We once again reiterate our concern about the fact that the threats facing the international community associated with the use of chemical weapons are increasingly urgent.

Ecuador firmly maintains its convictions regarding the prohibition and total elimination of this category of weapons of mass destruction as the Organisation's main priority. This delegation wishes to reinforce Ecuador's commitment to the work of the OPCW in the implementation of its important mandate and express its appreciation of the efforts and work carried out towards due compliance.

The delegation of Ecuador is also conscious, in line with the second paragraph of the preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention, that this important international body seeks to contribute to the realisation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, specifically the maintenance of international peace and security through disarmament.

In this regard, this delegation recognises that this session of the Executive Council, like the previous one, is being held within the context of a regrettable armed conflict initiated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine. Ecuador condemns in the strongest possible terms the



aggression committed by the Russian Federation against Ukraine in contradiction of the ban of the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or the independence and sovereignty of any State, in observance of paragraph 4, Article 2 of the United Nations Charter. Ecuador firmly maintains that any armed aggression undermines the principles of the United Nations Charter and, in particular, a peaceful solution to disputes.

It is imperative that the lives and security of the civil population are guaranteed and respected in line with the provisions set out in international humanitarian law. Within this context, Ecuador calls equally for respect for the integrity of Ecuadorian citizens in the conflict zones.

Ecuador, loyal to the principles that guide its foreign policy, again calls for the immediate cessation of hostilities and reiterates its conviction in the right of every country to live in peace and with dignity.

In this new international context, Ecuador, in line with the values and principles that guide its international policy as it relates to the Convention, believes it is fundamental to work together in order to establish mechanisms to prevent and respond to the undesired re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons in the world. In this regard, my country supports the technical work of the OPCW towards achieving these important objectives, and calls for them to be met strictly in line with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, while avoiding threats and provocations in this context. Ecuador welcomes the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in monitoring the state of chemical industry facilities in Ukraine, as well as any type of threat of use of chemical weapons in said country.

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

In this regard, Ecuador reiterates its support for the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) examining the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. This delegation reiterates its concern over the conclusions drawn by these technical teams and trusts that the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat will continue to facilitate cooperation and efforts to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention and other relevant decisions of the Conference and the Executive Council, with the necessary participation of the Syrian authorities.

Within the framework of commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the OPCW this year, there exists an important opportunity to redouble our efforts to continue strengthening this successful pillar of international disarmament, with a view to ensure its future operation in a world free of chemical weapons. In this regard, the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) will lie at the core of developing strategies aimed at disseminating the impact of this new resource within the OPCW and contributing to the improved quality of training courses with the cooperation of other parties.

This delegation reiterates that our country supports the adequate distribution and rational use of available resources with better efficiency, as well as observance of the mandate of the Convention in terms of gender parity and geographic representation across the composition of the Technical Secretariat.

Finally, Ecuador trusts in the leadership of the Executive Council to meet the objective of guiding the Organisation in fulfilling its mandate and tackling current challenges, while ensuring that it is being managed in a solid manner and will be able to continue its mission of supporting and preserving global peace.

Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be considered an official document of the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation's extranet and website.

Thank you.

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