



**OPCW**

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**GUATEMALA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF GUATEMALA TO  
THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished Permanent Representatives,

I would like to begin our statement by congratulating the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on his appointment to oversee our work over the next year. We are confident that his broad experience and his sound judgment will ensure the success of our work. Likewise, please allow me to recognise the value of the consultations that have taken place in preparation for the 100th Session of the Executive Council, all towards facilitating discussion and generating as much agreement as possible on the agenda items.

Guatemala aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, H.E. Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, with the exception of paragraph 15 of said statement.

We also recognise the work of the Vice-Chairpersons and facilitators, as well as the leadership of the Director-General and the valued work of the Technical Secretariat over the course of the intersessional period.

Guatemala once again reiterates that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a clear violation of international law and of the obligations set out in the Convention in particular.

To date, our Organisation has made extraordinary achievements, including the destruction of over 99% of declared chemical weapons stockpiles. Nevertheless, the repeated recent use and the questions that still remain unresolved loom over us like a latent threat against a world free of chemical weapons. Addressing the threat of the use of chemical weapons is an unavoidable subject for the Executive Council, which is why we underscore the importance of making progress in the verification of complete elimination, while at the same time urging all States to comply strictly with the obligations set out in the Convention and the decisions adopted by the Organisation's policy-making organs towards the complete elimination of chemical weapons and the prevention of their re-emergence in order to ensure international peace and security.



Guatemala, as a State Party to the Convention and a facilitator working towards achieving universality of the Convention, calls upon the States that are not yet part of this essential regime to ratify it or accede to it as soon as possible and without any conditions.

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the work carried out by the co-facilitators on matters related to organisational governance, and notes their latest report as co-facilitators to the Executive Council. My delegation will continue to be ready and dedicated to participate actively in discussions on the tenure policy, which now holds priority within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. We will also continue to follow compliance with the provisions set out in paragraph 44 of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

With regard to the Syrian dossier, my delegation wishes to urge the Technical Secretariat to continue its dialogue with the Syrian National Authority concerning the outstanding matters in its initial declaration, and reiterates its call for the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate effectively and without delay to resolve as soon as possible the remaining discrepancies, including the facilitation of the work of the Declaration Assessment Team.

Guatemala continues to support the work of the Organisation's Technical Secretariat, and in this regard we recall our request that it continue carrying out its work objectively, impartially, in a way that is scientifically unobjectionable, and without giving in to the political pressures that have undermined the traditional consensus that was the standard for this Organisation.

My delegation would like to once again express its gratitude for the confidence placed in the Permanent Representative of Guatemala as Chairperson of the Working Group on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW, while also recognising the support provided by the Technical Secretariat, which it congratulates for its valuable support of the Working Group's members.

We would also like to express our gratitude for the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat this year since our talks on the substantial imbalance in the composition of the Technical Secretariat in terms of geographical representation. We have taken note of the slight increase in our region's percentage and the improvements made to the human resources recruitment, hiring, and retention processes. There is still much to be done, but we welcome the progress made and will continue to support efforts towards achieving as much of a balanced representation as possible.

Finally, we congratulate H.E. Lauri Kuusing, Permanent Representative of Estonia, as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and we assure her of the full collaboration of our delegation to ensure that, under her leadership, we achieve the goals set towards a world that is safe and free of chemical weapons.

We request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of the 100th Session of this Council and published on the extranet and the Organisation's website.