



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.38
4 October 2022
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

ARGENTINA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC
TO THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Al Atiyah,

We welcome and value your work as Chairperson of the Council, and express our support for and recognition of the work of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat.

We express our support and reiterate Argentina's unwavering commitment to the policies of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as international cooperation and the need to guarantee the sovereign right to the research and development of technologies for peaceful purposes, in accordance with international commitments and national legislation.

We reiterate that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a blatant violation of the international obligations stemming from the Convention and international law.

We recall the importance of making progress in verifying the complete elimination of chemical weapons, and we call upon all States to meet their obligations under the Convention as well as the decisions adopted by the Organisation.

We welcome the in-person and online courses, many of which have benefited Argentine nationals, and we emphasise that Argentina will continue to support efforts to promote national capacities through regional courses for Latin America and the Caribbean in various fields. Over the course of 2022, with technical assistance from the Special Risks Squad of the Federal Police of Argentina, the ninth edition of the advanced chemical emergencies assistance and protection course was offered to States Parties in the Latin America and Caribbean region (GRULAC). Another course is also scheduled to take place in November.

We highlight the work of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and the Scientific Advisory Board, as well as the active participation of Argentine experts such as Dr González and Elma Biscotti, Captain of the Argentine Navy.



With regard to the revised Programme and Budget midway through the 2022 – 2023 biennium, we acknowledge the flexibility and recognise the need for the Organisation to have the funds it needs to carry out its mandate. The uncertainty with regard to inflation and rising prices does not only affect the OPCW, but the States Parties—including Argentina—which is why we request that the Secretariat make every possible effort when it comes to savings.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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