



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.80
4 October 2022
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ANTONIO ZABALGOITIA TREJO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES TO THE
OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Permanent Representatives,
Delegates,

I am pleased to begin my statement by expressing my recognition, on behalf of Mexico, of the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia, H.E. Ziad M. D. Al Atiyah, whose management of the Executive Council has been fundamental in making progress in the work of our Organisation.

Mexico also wishes to recognise the effective work of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, at the head of the Technical Secretariat. Without a doubt, his dedication to the mandates of the OPCW have been a driving factor in keeping our Organisation on track during an historically challenging time in which the geopolitical situation demands, more than ever, the establishment of solid principles of coexistence among the States. In this sense, the prohibition of the threat or use of force and the peaceful solution of disputes are vital. Likewise, and consequently, disarmament—and in particular the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons—constitutes an essential element in building a new institutional foundation for peace.

Within this context, this session of the Executive Council is the perfect occasion for Mexico to reaffirm its commitment to strengthen multilateralism and international peace and security. In this same regard, my country reiterates its condemnation of the use of any type of chemical weapon, anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances.

No circumstance can justify the use of chemical weapons; this is established in international law, international humanitarian law, our Convention, and the multiple treaties that we have signed to leave future generations a world that is safer and free of this type of weapon.

My country firmly believes that the prohibition and destruction of all weapons of mass destruction are critical when it comes to meeting the commitments that all States in this Organisation have undertaken. For this reason, today Mexico calls upon the States that have not yet done so to accede to the Chemical Weapons Convention, to thus contribute to strengthening international peace and security. Mexico will not abandon the aspiration to achieve universality of the Convention.

Mexico has full confidence in multilateralism and believes it to be the most effective path to resolving the major problems facing the international community. My country is committed to



continue contributing to building an environment of open and candid dialogue within the OPCW in order to allow us to recover our consensus in the decision-making process, and in which we will identify ways to overcome differences on issues that are essentially technical in nature. In this way, we will be able to make progress with the objectives of the Fifth Review Conference and delineate a common path for our Organisation for the near future.

With regard to the Syrian chemical weapons destruction programme, Mexico reiterates its call to the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to adopt all necessary measures so that the twenty-fifth round of consultations can take place as soon as possible between the Declaration Assessment Team and the Syrian National Authority. Taking into account resolution 2118 (2013) of the United Nations Security Council, Mexico urges the Syrian authorities to cooperate constructively with the OPCW. Likewise, Mexico wishes to recognise the professional and impartial work that has been carried out on this issue by the experts of the Organisation's Technical Secretariat.

Mexico welcomes the actions that have been carried out on the territory of the People's Republic of China to destroy the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan. Both States continue to demonstrate that collaboration is the right way to make progress in this critical mission of the OPCW.

There are two important milestones that will take place next year that Mexico wishes to highlight: the United States will meet its commitment to destroy its declared chemical weapons and stockpiles, and the Centre for Chemistry and Technology will be inaugurated, on time and within the approved budget.

These events will open the door to the future and bring us to think about what the Organisation's new focus should be in promoting the development of science and chemistry for peaceful purposes.

At the same time, Mexico hopes that in this new stage, the Organisation will find a way to ensure a greater presence of experts and personnel from the States in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus strengthening effective and balanced geographical representation.

Mexico is the first country in Latin America to adopt a feminist foreign policy that integrates its fundamental principles, such as substantive equality, freedom in making decisions, the elimination of structural inequalities, and the eradication of discrimination through individual and social rights. It is for this reason that we are pleased to see and join the initiatives of States Parties promoting these principles transversally and in favour of gender equity and diversity within our Organisation.

The final point of the statement on behalf of my country is positive and optimistic: Mexico voices its recognition of the fact that Brazil has successfully established the first OPCW designated laboratory in the Latin America and Caribbean region and trusts that in the future, we will be able to expand our regional capacities even more through the designation of other laboratories.

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

Thank you.