



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANET PINO RIVERO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF  
THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9**

Mr Chairperson,

Cuba defends the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of the Convention in a balanced and objective manner. In this regard, we insist on the need to avoid any tendency to contaminate or broaden the mandate of the Convention via the implementation of initiatives that surpass it and do not have the support of a consensus among the States Parties. Even more so when efforts are under way towards achieving the universality of the Convention.

We are also not in favour of discussing issues of a political nature at the OPCW, as these correspond to the mandate of other international forums such as the United Nations.

We support verification activities, which the Organisation should be developing with due professionalism, transparency, and impartiality. There should be verifiable evidence from official sources before any value judgments are made and before condemning any other State Party.

Likewise, under equal conditions and upon a basis of respect, the arguments of all those involved should be heard and responses should be offered to the questions and concerns of the States on issues relevant to the mandate of the Convention, as a sign of cooperation that should exist among the States Parties to this Convention.

We recognise the cooperation maintained by the Syrian Arab Republic with the Technical Secretariat since the very moment it acceded to the Convention. We recall the notable effort made by that country to ensure the destruction of its declared stockpile in record time. We recall the will of the Syrian authorities to cooperate, and that they have provided information in a timely manner and have continued to clarify any concerns that have been voiced.

While we do note that there are issues that are still under way or unresolved, we also note the willingness of the Syrian authorities to find a solution for these, as well as to search for alternatives such as accepting the use of correspondence as a means of submitting the documentation requested by the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) until the twenty-fifth round of consultations with that body can be resumed.



We thank the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic for the document submitted to the Secretariat with detailed information about each of the activities carried out by them since acceding to the Convention, in meeting and implementing the provisions of the Convention, and in response to the recommendations of the DAT and the relevant decisions adopted by the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council. We await its publication by the Secretariat and its access for States Parties.

We are pleased to note the progress achieved in recent months, including the inspections that were received, the recent visit to Syria by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and the technical and organisational meeting held in Beirut in November between the DAT and Syrian delegations. We note that this is a process that continues to move forward.

We reiterate that any interaction with any State Party, including Syria, should be carried out without any external interference, with full respect for its sovereignty and territorial integrity, and with the consent of its legitimate authorities.

There should be a fluid dialogue in which all States can contribute and cooperate among themselves constructively.

Double standards should not be applied, and the confidentiality of information should be respected at all times throughout the process, as well as the established timeframe for each activity, under equal conditions and following the norms and provisions of the Convention.

We request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW website and Catalyst platform.

Thank you.

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