



OPCW

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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 13**

Mr Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation has important concerns regarding the proposed revision of the mid-term Programme and Budget for 2023.

While we understand the need to cover the increased costs of important OPCW activities due to the global economic crisis that it is facing as a result of the pandemic, it should also be understood that these same factors have affected our national economies, making any rise in the contributions of States Parties a very complicated matter, particularly for developing countries.

We reiterate our disagreement with financing activities that are not part of a general agreement of the Organisation, for which a major discussion continues with regard to its technical nature and their pertinence when it comes to the mandate of the OPCW.

The principle that the contents of the draft Programme and Budget should not be interpreted in any way that contravenes the provisions of the Convention must be duly accounted for.

We are not in favour of including issues of different natures and scope in one bundled draft decision, or an omnibus decision; this is not the way to resolve concrete, fundamental differences among the States Parties in a decision of such great significance for the Organisation. To the contrary, it removes the possibility to search for alternatives for a consensus on resolving these problems through a genuine process of negotiation.

We note that language continues to be omitted on the Organisation's zero nominal growth policy in the narrative of the proposed decision.

In addition to the above, Cuba wishes to call for an improved balance in the distribution of resources across the different areas of the Convention by giving more attention to the allocation of resources for international cooperation and assistance activities in a way that strengthens its programmes, both financially and in terms of personnel, in addition to increasing the disclosure thereof. These activities contribute to the economic and technological development of the States Parties and capacity building, which are part of the mandate of this Organisation and one of the four pillars of the Convention.

Thank you.

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