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**PARAGUAY**

**STATEMENT BY MR FEDERICO BARTOLOZZI  
MINISTER AND ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH  
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson of the Conference,  
Mr Director-General,  
Your Excellencies, distinguished delegates:

I have the honour of addressing this Conference on behalf of the Republic of Paraguay.

First of all, Mr Chairperson, I wish you every success in carrying out the important duties at the head of this Conference, and I express my delegation's full support for the success of this mission entrusted to you by the States Parties.

I also take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen for his tireless efforts during his Chairmanship of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Likewise, I would like to acknowledge the care and dedication of the Director-General and the staff of the Technical Secretariat in service of the objectives of the Organisation, which are so relevant and necessary in today's global circumstances.

We emphasise the spirit of this Conference at a time when we are seeking to return to normality after the years marked by the COVID-19 pandemic. This normality allows us to be present in The Hague, and to contribute our national and collective efforts to achieve world peace.

In this regard, we call for the cessation of hostilities between Russia and Ukraine and the resumption of negotiations that will bring peace and tolerance between the two nations. It is essential that the international community, through valuable tools such as this Conference of the States Parties and through all multilateral forums and instances, participate actively in this process.

We firmly believe that multilateralism is the path to understanding and to act as a sounding board for the needs, desires, and projects of our countries. The Government of Paraguay, based on its diplomatic tradition and in accordance with its constitutional principles, reiterates its willingness to cooperate so that this Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons may contribute to achieving our objectives.



Paraguay also reaffirms its commitment to international efforts in international disarmament and the non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction and, like the other States Parties that have ratified the Convention, strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by any actor, anywhere, and under any circumstances. The use of chemical weapons and weapons of mass destruction constitutes a grave violation of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights.

It is imperative to move towards a world without chemical weapons; the only truly effective and valid guarantee against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons is complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of chemical weapons. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction is the most successful disarmament treaty and an essential instrument for achieving the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

In this regard, I wish to express my Government's full support for the work of the OPCW, highlighting its leadership role in the area, for its mandate to put an end to the development, production, stockpiling, transfer, and use of chemical weapons, to prevent their resurgence, and to achieve the elimination of existing stockpiles of these types of weapons and their destruction, and to rid the world of the threat of chemical warfare, in the pursuit of international peace and security, and its commitment to the pursuit of a world without chemical weapons in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

A firm response from the OPCW to current challenges is necessary, and its efficient action depends on the commitment and will of the States Parties, which is why it must have all the tools it needs to continue the independent and transparent investigations into the cases that are currently under way.

Paraguay therefore wishes to encourage the States Parties to remain open to dialogue in the search for consensus in the decision-making process within the Organisation and wishes to reiterate its full confidence in and support for the work carried out by the OPCW, while reaffirming its commitment to continue working to achieve the primary objective that we all share: achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

As we approach the Fifth Review Conference scheduled for next year, my country urges the States to redouble their efforts to overcome the issues that have prevented us from advancing at the pace and speed that our societies demand. We are confident that multilateral diplomacy will serve as a path to promote agreements, amendments, and adjustments to the provisions of the Convention and to plan the transformation that the Organisation needs.

I kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Conference and published on the official OPCW website.

Thank you.

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