



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.70
28 November 2022
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARISOL AGÜERO COLUNGA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to begin my statement by applauding the appointment of Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela, of the Republic of South Africa, as Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and expressing Peru's full commitment, as Vice-Chairperson of this session, to supporting you in carrying out your responsibilities. At the same time, I wish to voice our recognition of Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen, Permanent Representative of Norway, for his outstanding work as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I would also like to thank the Director-General for the complete and detailed report that he has presented at this session. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work carried out by the Technical Secretariat and its specialised mechanisms towards meeting the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and its full implementation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, with the exception of paragraph 17 thereof, which refers to Syria's cooperation with the OPCW. It also aligns itself with the joint statement on the use of chemical weapons in Syria, delivered by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom.

Peru emphatically condemns the use of chemical weapons and once again reiterates its full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic, especially the Fact-Finding Mission, the Declaration Assessment Team, and the Investigation and Identification Team. We regret that to date, the gaps and inconsistencies in Syria's initial declaration have yet to be resolved, and that this country has been obstructing the work of the Investigation and Identification Team. We once again urge the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat and fully implement the commitments it undertook as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a crucial agreement, as it is not only the first disarmament treaty to include a deadline for the elimination of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction, but it is also the first multilateral weapons control treaty that incorporates a



comprehensive verification regime. It is the obligation of all States Parties to promote it, comply with its provisions—without excuses and without delay—and work to achieve its universality in order to contribute to international peace and security.

Peru is highly committed to the effective implementation and promotion of the Convention. After its ratification in 1996, the National Authority—“the National Council for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons” (CONAPAQ)—has carried out various training and awareness activities on chemical safety, among other efforts.

Recently, the Peruvian Government issued Supreme Decree No. 013-2022-PRODUCE, which establishes the new chemical substances that were approved by Executive Council resolutions C-24/DEC.4 and C-24/DEC.5 (both dated 27 November 2019) included in List 1A of the Annex to Law No. 29239, “Law on control measures for chemical substances that can be used for the manufacture of chemical weapons.” This norm responds to the obligations undertaken by Peru as a State Party to the Convention, which include the adoption of norms and incorporating new toxic chemical substances into our national legislation.

With its firm believe in the importance of closer cooperation with the OPCW, Peru hosted the regional workshop on advanced safety management and chemical protection for States Parties in the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries (GRULAC)”, which served as an important regional forum in which experiences and best practices were exchanged among the participants in the field of management, safety, and chemical protection.

Currently, Peruvian institutions are working to establish a national regulatory framework for the safety and management of chemical substances, which would also facilitate the supervision of chemical facilities—including those categorised as high-risk—and promote programmes in international cooperation.

We are convinced that science plays a fundamental role in the implementation of the Convention and in the work of the OPCW. Peru is pleased to be one of the States Parties that has invested in the construction of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, as it believes that it will play a crucial role in research, continuous training, and capacity building, so that all States Parties can effectively implement its obligations under the Convention.

In conclusion, I would like to express that my delegation welcomes the draft decision on the OPCW Programme and Budget for 2023, and acknowledges in particular the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat to prevent an increase in annual contributions from the States Parties, bearing in mind the economic difficulties that most countries are experiencing as a result of high inflation rates stemming from the current international situation, as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which continue to affect us.

I would kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session.

Thank you.

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