



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 2 December 2022

C-27/NAT.118
28 November 2022
ENGLISH only

ALGERIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SALIMA ABDELHAK
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa on his election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident of his wisdom and able leadership to guide us to successful outcomes of our Conference. He can rely on my support as Vice-Chairperson of this session and on the contribution of my delegation for the success of our work.

Our appreciation is extended to H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway for the mission he has just completed with skill and dedication. I would like also to express our gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for their efforts to ensure the fulfilment of the Organisation's mandate.

The Algerian delegation fully aligns with the statements delivered by H.E. Ambassador Gaya Mammadov, Head of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, and with that of H.E. Ambassador Francis Danti Kotia, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the OPCW, on behalf of the African Group.

Algeria reaffirms its strong attachment to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") being a pillar in the international disarmament order and one of the means to preserve peace and security through the elimination of chemical weapons. Algeria condemns any use of chemical weapons, by anyone, for whatever reason, and under any circumstances.

The Organisation remains one of the most successful given its large membership and its significant achievements, particularly the destruction of more than 99% of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles. However, new threats including the risk of re-emergence of chemical weapons, chemical terrorism, the misuse by non-State actors have been outlined and need to be dealt with.



The OPCW should therefore continue its endeavours to reach universality and to ensure the complete elimination of all chemical weapons but also adapt its mechanisms and develop innovative measures and response strategies to be up to the new challenges at the global, regional and national levels. We should grab the opportunity of the Fifth Review Conference to be held in May 2023 to strengthen its achievements and to adjust to the new challenges and threats by conceiving a guiding strategy for the next five years and beyond.

We welcome, in this regard, the work already undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference under the leadership of H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OPCW, with the constructive engagement of States Parties and their valuable contributions and the supportive role of the Secretariat in this process. As a Vice-Chair of the OEWG, I would like to reiterate the full support and commitment of my delegation to work for a successful outcome of the Fifth Review Conference.

Algeria looks forward the operationalisation in May 2023 of the ChemTech Centre, and counts on it to play a central role in supporting the realisation of the outcome of the Fifth Review Conference.

Mr Chairperson, Algeria reiterates its commitment to contribute actively to the global effort for international peace and security consolidation through its implementation of the principles and objectives of the Convention at national, regional and international level.

At a national level, Algeria is mobilised with its relevant authorities whose relentless efforts have enabled them to build on the experience they have capitalised and to update their expertise in order to optimise their abilities to ensure the full implementation of the Convention provisions. Indeed, experts from Algeria have always participated actively to OPCW seminars, training courses and capacity building activities covering different topics even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At regional level, Algeria is one of the countries that strongly believes in South-South cooperation and makes itself available to share with countries of our region and subregion good practises and the achievements of its national institutions dealing with the implementation of the Convention. In this regard, our national Authority contributed to the realisation of mentorship visits by representatives from Niger and Burkina Faso, respectively in 2012 and 2014 in the framework of the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme for National Authorities and intends to concretise the same exercise with Mali, interrupted due to the pandemic. Algeria is also organising, with the collaboration of the Technical Secretariat, the “training course on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment for African States” in Algiers 18 to 21 December 2022.

Algeria supports the initiative of the OPCW to create regional centres of excellence on the African continent as a mechanism that is likely to strength cooperation between African countries and improve the performance of their national entities. My country seizes this opportunity to reiterate Algeria’s availability and readiness to host the centre for the North Africa and Sahel region.

We would like also to highlight the need to enlarge the list of OPCW designated laboratories to include laboratories from Africa especially that the continent is facing major challenges and risks. We call upon the Secretariat to speed up the African laboratories endeavour for this

purpose. In this regard, we look forward to signing the MoU on the twinning project between the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie (INCC) and the German Research Institute for Protective Technologies and Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Protection (GN) that has started in 2020, with the ambition for INCC/GN to join the OPCW designated laboratories network.

Mr Chairperson Algeria considers that the remarkable progress in chemical disarmament is the result of international community awareness on the role of the OPCW and the necessity of consensus in strengthening its decisions and action. The responsibility of the international community is needed more than ever to preserve these prerequisites in order to build on OPCW achievements and to get ready together for the new challenges.

We thus should refrain the recourse to voting to avoid dividing us and weakening the Organisation's decisions but instead dialogue and cooperation within the Organisation both between States Parties, and between States Parties and the Secretariat for the sake of the promotion of international peace and security.

To conclude, we are convinced that the Organisation is able to maintain the various gains made till now, adapt and innovate to always reach the objectives of the Convention and contribute to international peace and security. It can count on the unfailing support of Algeria.

Finally, I would ask that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Conference of the States Parties and that it be published on the OPCW's external server and public website.

Thank you.

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