



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JORGE LOMÓNACO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO  
AT THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

This is very likely to be one of the most complicated and also one of the most relevant sessions of the Executive Council in recent years. We have before us, among others, the budget for the crucial year of 2012, seriously belated industry-related matters and the compelling need to find a timely and acceptable solution to issues related to meeting the final extended deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons. In other words, the timing, the form and the substance of the decisions we are meant to adopt will have a very lasting impact on the future of the OPCW.

We trust that, since there is so much at stake, so much, so dear to so many and not only to possessor States parties and a handful of so-called “interested delegations”, you will keep the decision-making process open, transparent and inclusive until the very end. We are also confident that you will continue to be the strong leader we need at this juncture without losing the essential impartiality of the Chair.

In a few words, my delegation is confident that we are in good hands and that, under your leadership, Mr Chairperson, resistances, political games and individual agendas will eventually give way to the greater interest of keeping in place the system established by the Convention and that has proven to be so effective in pursuing the goal of a world free of chemical weapons. You can count on the support and the constructive approach of Mexico.

Unfortunately, recurrent and disappointing practices emerged once again during the last session of the Council. At some points, our meeting went through unnecessary and counterproductive discussions and tensions rose to levels unusual to our community. We still hope that the so-called OPCW spirit will emerge and save the day at the last minute. But business as usual might not be enough to respond to the challenges that lie ahead.

Consensus in the OPCW has moved from being a desirable procedure to adopt decisions to become an end in itself, where the fact that certain decisions are adopted by consensus has become more relevant than the content of the decisions themselves. Maintaining a tradition



has become more important than substance, allowing some to take unfair advantage over others by exercising what, in practice, has become a sort of veto power.

Indeed, consensus must take into account all the legitimate concerns raised but, contrary to what some believe, consensus is not necessarily unanimity. Certain decisions before us simply cannot wait for unanimity beyond the upcoming Conference of the States Parties without causing irreparable damage to the OPCW. Maybe the time has come for us to distinguish when unanimity is desirable and possible and when it is desirable but not possible.

Mr Chairperson,

Our views and positions on the different items in the agenda are well known by all. We pride ourselves to often walk in the middle. We intend not only to continue this path but also to approach the issues with open mind, flexibility and spirit of compromise. In other words, we are here to work with others and find a solution rather than furiously defending one position. We want to help, be part of the solution, not of the problem. We invite other delegations to do the same.

I request this statement to be issued as an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

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