



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Ninth Session
7 – 9 July 2015

EC-79/NAT.24
7 July 2015
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MARÍA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to first and foremost welcome Ambassador Azzarello, Chairperson of this Executive Council, and express our confidence that under your leadership, our work will be productive and successful. We also are grateful to Ambassador Moerzinger, who previously chaired the Council and managed its discussions.

We welcome the reports from the Director-General and the Vice-Chairpersons on the status of the Organisation.

This delegation also aligns itself with the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, presented this morning by His Excellency Dr Alireza Jahangiri.

We are convinced of the need to continue advancing toward the universality of the Convention in order to achieve the desired goal of a world free of chemical weapons, and we are pleased by Myanmar's imminent accession to the Convention. We hope that this new State Party will soon be joined by Angola and South Sudan. We congratulate the Technical Secretariat for its efforts and reiterate our call for the States that have not yet done so to accede to the Convention without delay and without conditions.

Bearing in mind that the complete destruction of every type of chemical weapon should continue to be a priority for the Organisation, we have also noted the efforts of the Government of Libya to progress with the destruction of its remaining chemical weapons and draw up a step-by-step plan.

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, we repeat our adherence to the calls for "customised solutions" to deal with the specific situations encountered by each country, and we welcome the new facilitator with whom we will be working on this matter.

We also welcome the initiative to solicit proposals for specific measures from States Parties toward achieving the full implementation of Article XI. Our delegation played an active role in the development of the proposals by the Non-Aligned Movement and hopes that these will be conveyed in the consolidated document that the Technical Secretariat will develop, on the foundation of these and other suggestions, with an aim to advance a constructive discussion based on the merits of each proposal.



In terms of assistance and protection, we support the strategy to develop capacity-building activities and training at a regional level in order to tackle chemical incidents. We encourage continued progress in collaborating with other relevant international organisations toward preventing said incidents and developing capacities to respond to the hostile use of toxic chemicals.

We welcome the discussion document prepared by the Technical Secretariat on the OPCW in 2025. We believe this provides a basis upon which we can build an inclusive debate that will take into account all of the pillars of the Convention, as well as the interests and concerns of the various States Parties, who will have the responsibility of defining the strategic lines of the Organisation.

Without promoting specific views, we give high importance to the complete elimination of all of the categories of chemical weapons and the maintenance of a solid regimen of verification and competencies in order to handle contingencies such as the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Other areas of special relevance are cooperation for economic and technological development, assistance and protection, prevention of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, and other matters concerning education and outreach.

Consequently, in light of the recommendation from the Scientific Advisory Board, this delegation supports the creation of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. A Board of this nature should ensure effective geographical representation and reflect distinct schools of thought and investigation.

We appreciate the Technical Secretariat's contribution in preparing the discussion documents within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism toward adopting measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors and relative to the responsibility associated with said actors. Together with recognising the work that has been in progress under the supervision of the Ambassador of Nigeria, we support a discussion on the proposed matters in a sub-working group, using the Convention and its provisions as the reference framework.

With regard to the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic, we value the progress made in the elimination of chemical weapons and the destruction of the facilities. Nevertheless, we have noted that there remain unresolved matters related to the Syrian declaration on its programme, and we support the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to make steady progress in this area.

Our country, in line with the need to support efforts to destroy chemical weapons, has considered making a new contribution to modestly join the efforts being made by the international community.

We would like to highlight the work that is being done by the two Fact-Finding Mission teams that are investigating, on the one hand, the alleged attacks involving toxic chemicals in the province of Idlib, and the allegations made by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic on the other hand. We believe that there is room for better cooperation in this area.

In addition to reiterating our condemnation of any use of chemical agents as a weapon, by anyone and under any circumstances, we urge all of the parties to cooperate with the

investigations in an effective manner, as we are certain that they will be conducted in an impartial and objective manner.

I do not want to finish my statement without recognising, as we often do in this forum at the end of a mission, the contribution of the Ambassadors that are participating in this Council for the last time. We have worked with them in harmony and with mutual confidence. We also once again voice our great appreciation for the Deputy Director-General who is leaving the OPCW to take on new functions in her country.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of this session.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---