



OPCW

Executive Council

Eightieth Session
6 – 8 October 2015

EC-80/NAT.8^{*}
6 October 2015
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PERU
AT THE EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me to welcome you and, at the same time, offer the support of my delegation for a successful conclusion to this session of the Council.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, read by our colleague, the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

First of all, we welcome the presentation by the Director-General and the recent accession of Myanmar and Angola to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

At the same time, we urge the few countries that have not yet done so to initiate the process to accede to the Convention. In this regard, we support the establishment of joint mechanisms between the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat that would provide the support necessary in each specific case to accede to the Convention.

My delegation is carefully following the continued conversations between the Declaration Assessment Team and the Technical Secretariat with representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding said country's initial declaration.

Eighteen months have passed since the Declaration Assessment Team's first visit to Syria, and to date it still has serious concerns regarding the accuracy of the initial declaration. In this regard, we reiterate our call to the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate on this important matter in order to clarify existing discrepancies, determine the additional measures needed to remedy the errors and omissions and, at the same time, guarantee the accuracy and completeness of its initial declaration.

Just a few weeks ago, the Declaration Assessment Team made its eleventh visit to Syria. In this regard, we await with great interest the presentation by the head of the Declaration Assessment Team during this session of the Council.

*
Reissued in English for technical reasons.



We have noted the Director-General's Note transmitting United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), referring to the establishment of a Joint Investigative Mechanism of the United Nations and the OPCW in Syria to identify those responsible for the recent use of chemical weapons in said country.

On this matter in particular, we are confident that it will strengthen the collaboration between the OPCW and the United Nations toward achieving the goals set before the Joint Investigative Mechanism.

We also believe it is timely and necessary that the efforts of the Fact-Finding Mission in Syria continue with its investigations into any incidents involving potential chemical weapons. We await with interest the new report that the Director-General will present on the activities of the Fact-Finding Mission.

In this regard, Peru reiterates its great concern about these incidents and once again voices its vehement condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, by anyone and under any circumstances.

Likewise, my delegation is carefully observing the process of the destruction of the 12 Syrian chemical weapons production facilities. In this sense, we welcome the destruction of the five underground structures and the five hangars that have already been inspected. We also await the soonest possible completion of the destruction of the remaining two hangars.

The full implementation of the Convention and compliance with Article VII thereof must be a fundamental objective for the Organisation. We note with great concern that only a small percentage of States Parties have fully implemented the Convention, and we fear that many States still do not have the tools necessary to adequately develop their national capacities.

The implementation of the Convention is of vital importance for generating confidence and security for all States Parties. For this reason, the States Parties—in collaboration with the Secretariat—must continue to strive for full implementation of the Convention.

In this regard, we urge the States Parties that have not yet done so to contact the Technical Secretariat in order to coordinate the steps necessary to achieve full implementation of the Convention as soon as possible. We also support the development of incentives for States Parties who have not yet done so to implement the Convention beginning with the initial measures of Article VII.

My delegation considers it of great importance to give greater impetus to international cooperation, which contributes to the expansion of the chemical industry and trade among all States Parties, safely and without discrimination.

At the same time, international cooperation should nurture the peaceful use of chemistry and the free transfer and exchange of scientific and technological knowledge. It also implies the development of other forms of cooperation among the States such as, for example, responding to potential chemical weapons attacks by non-State actors.

With all this in mind, international cooperation—one of the pillars of the Convention—must be adequately developed and must be reflected in the OPCW's regular budget. We firmly believe that cooperative activities should be considered based on their own merits, and not on budgetary constraints.

Education and outreach are indispensable elements of maintaining and strengthening the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons established by the Convention. Thus, my delegation believes that education and outreach will play an increasingly relevant role in the future of the OPCW, the expansion of knowledge of the peaceful uses of chemistry, and the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

For this reason, and bearing in mind the recommendations of the Third Review Conference and the Director-General's proposal for the creation of a permanent Advisory Board for Education and Outreach, my delegation is ready to participate in negotiations conducive to the adoption of the corresponding draft decision of this Council which will subsequently be transmitted to the Conference of the States Parties for its approval at its Twentieth Session. In this regard, we must reiterate the need to ensure equal geographical representation among the members of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -