



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Ninth Meeting
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MOROCCO

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDELOUAHAB BELLOUKI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO TO THE
OPCW AT THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

On behalf of the African Group, I take this opportunity to commend you, Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, for the professionalism you have portrayed in chairing our sessions.

I would like to convey to the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, the Group's appreciation for his informative statement, and also express to Mr Marc-Michel Blum, Head of the OPCW Laboratory, the Group's gratitude for the technical clarifications he provided to the Executive Council.

The Group reiterates its unwavering commitment to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as the noble objectives pursued by the OPCW. To this end, the Group has been closely following the developments related to the chemical incident in Salisbury, and notes with great concern the report of the Technical Secretariat, issued on 12 April 2018, on the activities carried out in support of a request for technical assistance by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The conclusion of the report that the use of a toxic chemical agent in this unfortunate incident has been confirmed is of grave concern for the Group. The Group has noted regrettably, the increasing number of cases of alleged and confirmed incidents involving the use of chemical weapons.

The Group reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons by any actor, anywhere and under any circumstances.

The protection of the pillars and the norms of the Convention against erosion is fundamental to our collective peace and security. The African States Parties stress, in this regard, its irrevocable and principled commitment to the comprehensive implementation of the Convention.



In this context, the Group strongly urges all States Parties to support the unity of our Organisation and to preserve its technical character, in furtherance of its internationally recognized success as a strong mechanism for disarmament.

The Group, which is strongly committed to multilateralism, underlines that any response to such acts ought to be based on incontrovertible evidence gathered by a competent, independent and credible entity and comply strictly with international law, including the primacy of the United Nations Security Council.

In conclusion, the Group wishes to renew its full support to the Technical Secretariat and expresses its confidence in the work carried out under its auspices, in conformity with the highest standards of the Convention.

Thank you.

I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the external server and the website of the Organisation.

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