



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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**CYPRUS**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ELPIDOFOROS ECONOMOU  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES**

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

It is a distinct honour to address the Conference during its special session on behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus. At the outset let me say that Cyprus aligns itself with the joint statement of the European Union.

I would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Bellouki, Permanent Representative of Morocco, for the efficiency with which he is executing his duties as Chairperson of the special session of the Conference, and to express our deep appreciation to the outgoing Director-General, Mr. Ahmet Üzümcü, for his very significant contribution to the OPCW and its Member States. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias of Spain, who in less than a month from now will assume the position of Director-General of our Organisation. I am convinced that his rich diplomatic experience will lead the Organisation to the achievement of positive results and I assure him of the full support and cooperation of Cyprus.

The Republic of Cyprus has been a firm supporter of the OPCW since its outset. My country signed the Chemical Weapons Convention in 1993 and ratified and acceded thereto in 1998. We remain committed to the mission and values of the OPCW and actively engaged in the Organisation's activities, and we share the vision of a world free of chemical weapons.

Recent incidents involving the use of chemical weapons around the world remind us that we should remain vigilant until we achieve the full elimination of chemical weapons. In our view, any initiative aimed at strengthening the efforts of the Organisation to eliminate the use of chemical weapons should be legally sound and be implemented in adherence to international law. Any decision to this effect should not be misinterpreted as targeting any particular Member State. We believe that this Fourth Special Session of the Conference represents an excellent opportunity for States Parties to engage in constructive dialogue and make every effort possible to safeguard the effective implementation of the Convention.



Finally, I would like to congratulate the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their dedication and commitment to the principles of the Convention and wish all the delegations a productive Conference.

I request that this statement is circulated as an official document of the Special Session of the Conference States Parties and to be published on the OPCW website and extranet.

I Thank you.

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