



**OPCW**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**URUGUAY**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF URUGUAY TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

**EXPLANATION OF URUGUAY'S VOTE (ABSTENTION)**

Mr Chairperson,

Uruguay has consistently condemned the use, and the threat of the use, of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances and firmly supports strengthening all effective legal tools to identify the perpetrators and ensure that they are held accountable for their actions.

My country was one of the original signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, and one of the first countries to ratify it; Uruguay has carried forward a policy of continued support for the implementation of the objectives of the OPCW, and in particular for fostering international cooperation for the peaceful use of chemistry.

No one can doubt my country's commitment to policies of disarmament and the fundamental principles of the United Nations, in particular the preservation of international peace and security and finding peaceful solutions to disputes.

Toward upholding these principles, it is fundamental for Uruguay to solidify agreements that put into place a mechanism to attribute responsibility for the use of chemical weapons. In 2017, Uruguay was a co-sponsor of the draft resolution submitted to the United Nations Security Council on renewing the mandate of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism, which was tasked with identifying the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. At the time, Uruguay regretted—and still regrets today—that said resolution was not adopted, as we understand that the attribution of responsibility for the use of chemical weapons is fundamental, not only in order to punish the perpetrators, but also to act as an effective deterrent to their use or any threat of their use, and to maintain international peace and security.

My country understands that there is not a need to establish new mechanisms to apportion blame for the use of chemical weapons. It would be sufficient to refrain from blocking those that currently exist from working. For that reason, we urge all States directly involved to continue to search for consensus-based solutions.



To this noble end, Uruguay commits all of its effort and resolve to contribute to the search for alternatives that will make it possible, via the relevant bodies of the United Nations, to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons and hold them accountable, no matter who they may be, and no matter where said acts take place.

For its part, the OPCW should continue to be a technical body that is impartial and objective, and that puts into practice the provisions set out in the Convention in order to achieve a world free of chemical weapons and foster the peaceful use of chemistry.

Cooperation between the Organisation and the States should be preserved as one of the fundamental pillars that support the system put into place by the Convention.

In conclusion, Uruguay calls to protect the traditional culture of consensus that is the trademark of this Organisation, and to preserve the international prestige that earned it the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this Conference.

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