



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Fourth Special Session
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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

ECUADOR

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR FERNANDO BUCHELI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR
TO THE OPCW AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Mr Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties,
Mr Director-General, and
Esteemed colleagues,

Ecuador supports this special session aimed at defending the global prohibition of the use of chemical weapons. My country wishes to reiterate the principle that there exists no justification whatsoever for the use of chemical or toxic weapons by anyone, under any circumstance. The use of chemical weapons is in violation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the standards of international law. My country expresses its support for and recognition of the professional, impartial, and independent work carried out by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

Ecuador welcomes the draft decisions submitted by: the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and other countries; the Russian Federation and China; Burundi; and other States. These contain important elements for strengthening the OPCW, which represents the common goal of all of its members to guarantee the implementation of the object and purpose of the Convention.

The draft decisions that are currently under consideration at the OPCW are the result, in Ecuador's opinion, of the lack of compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution S/RES/2235 (2015), which established the Joint Investigative Mechanism, and the non-renewal of its mandate to identify those responsible for violating the Convention based on evidence submitted by the Fact-Finding Mission. In this regard, it stands to recall that it is the United Nations Security Council that has the principal responsibility of maintaining international peace and security.

The operative parts of the decisions that are under consideration at this special session, just like the establishment of a mechanism of attribution, demonstrate differences of opinion, which is why it is necessary to clarify their scope and function.

Ecuador believes that any decision that implies—or that could imply—entering amendments to the Convention must be considered at the Conference of the States Parties and/or at the



Fourth Review Conference, which is scheduled for November 2018, based on the principle of consensus and with the aim of endowing the decisions it adopts with as much legitimacy as possible.

Ecuador supports the need to strengthen the OPCW as an institution and broaden its role in verification, as well as the need to include the legitimate identification of the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons or the use of chemicals as weapons in order to arrive at appropriate actions for the situation and to combat impunity. The adoption of a decision or a definitive mandate is just as important, as has been indicated, and should be legitimised within the framework of the aforementioned Conferences.

In order to adopt any decision—be it by the Director-General, the Executive Council, or the Conference of the States Parties—it is fundamental that it has the broadest possible representation, support, and commitment of the States Parties, with clear and appropriate definitions of the mechanism or measures establishing the attribution function. Potential operational and budgetary implications must also be taken into account.

Ecuador, as has been noted repeatedly, condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and in other places around the world by both State and non-State actors in various conflicts, which have multiple perpetrators and which continue to give rise to serious humanitarian crises.

Ecuador is casting its vote for the efforts necessary to have decisions within the bodies of this Organisation taken on the basis of a consensus, a factor that will help to safeguard the credibility that the OPCW enjoys.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

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