



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**JOINT STATEMENT BY
COLOMBIA, CHILE, COSTA RICA, HONDURAS, MEXICO, PANAMA, AND PERU
AT THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, and distinguished delegates,

I present this statement on behalf of Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, and Peru.

We would like to respond to the assertions claiming that decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 is not legitimate or is not binding for all of the Member States of the Organisation, particularly for those that voted against it or that abstained in the voting process.

Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 was adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Fourth Special Session, which was convened in line with official procedures. Its adoption took place in conformity with paragraph 18 of Article VIII of the Convention, which in the relevant part stipulates that “decisions on matters of substance should be taken as far as possible by consensus. [...] If consensus is not possible [...] the Conference shall take the decision by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting [...]”.

Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 was adopted in strict compliance with the provisions set out in paragraphs 19 and 20 of Article VIII of the Convention, specifically that the Conference “shall consider any questions, matters or issues within the scope of this Convention [...] (paragraph 19) and that the “Conference shall oversee the implementation of this Convention and act in order to promote its object and purpose” (paragraph 20).

As the Chairperson of the Conference officially declared, the voting results were counted at 82 votes in favour and 24 against. The decision was therefore adopted in complete compliance with the relevant standards of the Convention and, as such, was made valid by said international treaty, and is vested with the authority granted to decisions adopted by any of the bodies of our Organisation within the framework of their respective competencies.

Specifically, the decision is mandatory and affects all Member States of the OPCW, not only those that voted for it. The States that abstained from voting and the States that voted against it—including the States that did not participate in the voting process—in their capacity as Parties to the Convention and Members of the Organisation, are subject to this decision. The delegations that are making this statement wish to reaffirm that the legitimacy of the process of adoption of the decision and its contents were based on the principles and standards of the Convention, which also include the obligation of each State Party not to assist, encourage, or induce any activity prohibited for the States Parties to the Convention and not to use chemical



weapons. We are all responsible for the effectiveness of the Convention, which makes it possible to legitimately adopt a decision such as C-SS-4/DEC.3, which was adopted this past 27 June.

This is the very essence of the multilateralism upon which institutions and principles are based; as Member States of this international body, we want to contribute to ensure that its objectives can be achieved via the decisions and mechanisms that we legitimately and legally adopt—the very same that bring together all States Parties.

For this reason, we should all work together with the aim of putting this decision into practice and refrain from seeking out differences on the basis of its alleged lack of a legal or legitimate basis.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

Thank you.

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