

REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI



**STATEMENT BY HER EXCELLENCY AMBASSADOR VESTINE NAHIMANA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION
OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)
TO THE FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE
ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
THE HAGUE, MARCH 12-15, 2019**

Mr. Director General,
Madame President,
Distinguished Delegates,,
Ladies, Gentlemen,

Burundi as a member state of the OPCW as an observer, my delegation did not foresee a national declaration, but was challenged by the statement of the United States delegation, hence this intervention.

The position of my State is a position of principle.

For this purpose, the state I represent is totally against regime changes by unconstitutional means in any state.

Burundi is much attached to respect for the sovereignty of States and other principles of the UN Charter, it cannot in any way recognize a self-proclaimed President. The electoral process is a matter that falls within the national jurisdiction of the country concerned without outside interference or military interventionism.

Only a frank and sincere dialogue organized in respect of national ownership is the best viable way to find a solution to the current situation in Venezuela.

My Delegation fully associates itself with the other Delegations that are fighting for the cause of legal and democratic regimes and fully recognizes the statement delivered by the Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as coordinator of the NAM + China group.

My delegation encourages and supports the OPCW in its noble mission to eradicate chemical weapons around the world.

Madam President, please make this statement an official document of this Session.

Thank you.