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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**UNITED STATES POSITION REGARDING VENEZUELAN REPRESENTATION AT
THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW)**

In response to the intervention by the previous speaker, the United States wants to make the following statement.

Madam Chairperson,

Concerning the situation in Venezuela, President Trump officially recognised Juan Guaidó as the Interim President of Venezuela on January 23, 2019. The United States stands with 54 nations in this recognition of Guaidó's assumption of the presidency, per the Venezuelan constitution. The United States calls on all responsible nations to recognise Interim President Guaidó immediately, and on the Venezuelan military and security forces to accept the peaceful and democratic transfer of power. The United States will not tolerate those who seek to undermine Venezuela's democratic institutions and loot Venezuelan resources to enrich themselves at the expense of the Venezuelan people. Large-scale protests across Venezuela against Maduro demonstrate clearly that the people of Venezuela are fed up with autocracy, human rights violations, widespread poverty, lack of basic food and medicine, and economic mismanagement. Maduro's callous use of the military, police, and criminal gangs to block badly needed international humanitarian aid from entering Venezuela demonstrates the brutality of Maduro and his cronies.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

I request that this statement be designated an official document of the Executive Council Meeting and that it be posted on the OPCW External server and the public website.

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