



OPCW

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MOROCCO

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDELOUAHAB BELLOUKI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF MOROCCO
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the African Group.

The African Group has noted, with deep regret, the attempt to interfere in its decision to designate Ambassador Kamal Mohammed Khair, Permanent Representative of Sudan to the OPCW, as its representative as Vice-Chairperson of the Executive Council. The Group firmly believes in the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign states, guaranteed by the United Nations Charter.

In that regard, we wish to stress that regional groups have the absolute right and freedom to designate their representatives, free from interference from outsiders.

This principle should be respected by all states parties especially in this context, to guarantee the achievement of the noble objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The African Group does not interfere in the choice of representatives of other regional groups. We would, therefore, urge other states parties and regional groups to reciprocate by respecting the choice of the African Group in this and all other matters.

We urge the United States of America and other states parties to keep the discussions at this Council strictly within the mandate of the OPCW, which remains a technical organisation dealing with chemical disarmament.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson, and I request that this statement be made an official document of this session and posted on the external server.

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