



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**PANAMA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WILLYS DELVALLE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

It is an honour to be able to extend a welcome from the delegation of Panama and express our recognition of the professional, transparent, and proactive management of work under your Chairmanship.

Once again, Madam Chairperson, we stand with you for this challenging work and express our firm resolve to cooperate, and we are confident that you will guide our work with the drive required to achieve the goals we have set.

The delegation of Panama would like to take a moment to make record of the fact of our respect for and trust in the Director-General, His Excellency Fernando Arias, to whom we have entrusted the mission of leading this Organisation in times of important challenges that have brought us and continue to bring us to take decisions with no historical precedent for this Organisation.

Now more than ever, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons needs the renowned dedication and competent work of its technical and administrative teams, especially when it comes to the responsibilities assigned in each of their functions.

Over the past year, the Executive Council has addressed urgent matters, which has without a single doubt been reflected in the complexity of the realities of the world in which we live, and the latent threat related to the use of chemicals for non-peaceful purposes.

The cases of alleged use of chemical weapons, against the backdrop of the Convention being in full force and effect and after over 20 years of its entry into force, present us with challenges that were unimaginable just a short time ago. For this reason, the configuration of potential violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention must be addressed in depth and in strict compliance with its mandate.

We note the information that has been presented by the Director-General in his opening statement and we call for the continuation of the required efforts with the professionalism that has come to be associated therewith in order to make positive progress on matters that are considered priorities.



Once again, it is highly concerning that the information contained in the Fact-Finding Mission report regarding an incident of alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Douma, following an evaluation and analysis, “[provides] reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon took place”.

As we face the persistence of these evaluations, the slightest doubt does not remain as to the imperative need to strengthen the tools that can be used to promote the peaceful use of chemistry, such as the work of the Advisory Board for Education and Outreach, particularly in support of the Secretariat's capacity-building efforts.

Within this context, international cooperation through training programmes in assistance and protection and the promotion of the implementation of national legislation will continue to be key in the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry and the consolidation of our National Authorities.

It is for this reason that Panama is dedicated to making all possible efforts to drive forward training programmes and to responsibly support the following courses:

- a basic course aimed at countries in the Latin American and Caribbean region on responding to chemical attacks and incidents involving toxic industrial chemicals, taking place from 11 to 15 March in Panama City; and
- a regional training course on carrying out obligations related to declarations and inspections as set out in Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which will take place from 25 to 29 March in Panama City.

Finally, we must understand that there are new scenarios and challenges that require international attention and action at a multilateral level, requiring that in turn, the Organisation adapt to this new reality. From this perspective, it is important to adequately address the OPCW's tenure policy in a manner that is candid, constructive, and without delay, while underscoring the actions that have been carried out within the Organisation in terms of gender balance, which is a priority in the field of human resources.

I request that this statement be included as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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