



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninetieth Session  
12 – 15 March 2019

EC-90/NAT.40  
12 March 2019  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**VENEZUELA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC  
OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT  
BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
(EC-90/NAT.6, DATED 12 MARCH 2019)**

**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 5 OF THE NINETYETH SESSION  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

I must take the floor in order to exercise my right to object following the statement by the United States of America, which was used as a flagrant attack under a false pretext by the representative of the only State Party of this Organisation that continues to possess chemical weapons.

My country has been slighted. As a result, I must respond to this new aggression by someone who represents the interests of the country leading the continuous and systemic attack against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its Government and institutions, which I am honoured to represent.

I must also note that the statement by the Representative of the United States of America is an attack against the Presidency of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), with which China is aligned in this matter. It is absolutely inappropriate that an attempt is being made to silence the delegation of the country that currently holds the Presidency of the NAM during the agenda item for joint statements.

My country, a proud member of the NAM, categorically rejects this new attack by the Representative of the United States of America against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its legitimate representatives.

This forum is not the place for this discussion. Venezuela, as a member of the United Nations and in line with its Charter, categorically rejects this attempt to politicise and polarise this forum, which is prominently technical in nature, even further.

My country requests that the authorities of this institution, its Member States, and sovereign States reject in the strongest possible terms any attempt to discuss the membership and representation of the legitimate representatives of a State Party—in this case, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.



The attitude that the Government of the United States of America has demonstrated here is criminal, akin to the medieval era when cities were surrounded until they surrendered, attempts to attack the Venezuelan people and institutions legitimately elected by popular vote for purely political reasons and, I should add, in order to meet a political agenda favourable to its own interests.

The claim to recognise the legitimacy of a person as President of a country anywhere comes as no surprise from a person representing a country where a candidate receiving 2.9 million more votes than their rival was not recognised as President due to the Electoral College.

It should be very easy to attempt to impose their murky agenda against our peace-loving people, who are going to defend our self-determination, our democracy, and respect for our sovereignty.

Out of respect for the other delegations who feel the need to comment on this Agenda item, I reserve the right in my national capacity to respond to and to expound upon the response that I initially gave on this matter.

Finally, Madam Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninetieth Session of the Executive Council and that it be published on the Organisation's webpage and external server.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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