



**OPCW**

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**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF MEXICO  
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson, Distinguished Representatives, Delegates,

On behalf of the Government of Mexico, please allow me, Madam Chairperson, to express our support for the leadership and the professionalism with which you have managed the work of this Council since the month of May 2018.

We express our recognition of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his dedication and tireless effort to promoting a consensus and the efficiency of the Organisation through observance of the Convention, and we welcome the complete report presented yesterday, as well as the report by the Vice-Presidents of this Executive Council, with an update on OPCW activities. We also recognise the professional work of the staff of the Technical Secretariat.

Mexico will continue to tirelessly promote the defence of the principles of the United Nations Charter upon which multilateral institutions rest, and support for them. It is worth reiterating that these principles stem from the commitment of the Government of Mexico to international peace and security, and the stability of my country's foreign policy.

Mexico is in favour of having the International Day of Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace take place via constructive policies that we will adopt at the headquarters of the OPCW. The noble commitment to freeing humanity from the scourge of chemical weapons today will be undermined if we are not able to prioritise dialogue and search for a compromise while facing the challenges of the rapidly changing current conditions.

Mexico's commitment to the OPCW will continue to be unwavering; it will not consent to or justify any act involving the use of chemicals as a weapon of war by any actor and under any circumstance, or any use of toxic nerve agents against individuals or the civil population. Mexico firmly condemns this type of barbarism, which violates international law. Likewise, we strongly support any initiative of the States Parties to amend the Schedules of the Annex on Chemicals, such as the joint proposal developed by the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands, as well as four proposals submitted by the Russian Federation. With regard to the fifth proposal, we request that the Secretariat find a way to expand its analysis, as in the face of doubt, we cannot run the risk that future victims might blame a lack of consistency.

We believe that the experts of the Fact-Finding Mission are conducting their investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons in a professional, independent, and impartial



manner, and that they comply with the investigation guidelines contained both in the Convention and the provisions of the Verification Annex.

We note with concern the report submitted to this Council on the incident in Douma, which took place on 7 April 2018, as the evidence that was collected reasonably points to the use of chlorine as a chemical weapon. We are counting on an objective and impartial analysis and, if it should be the case, other elements should be put into action to facilitate the Investigation and Identification Team's identification of the perpetrators of these terrible acts.

In this regard, my Government wishes to underscore its absolute confidence in the abilities of Santiago Oñate, who is the head of this Investigation Team.

In the spirit of cooperation and commitment to the Organisation, the Government of Mexico will make every possible effort to continue carrying out its voluntary annual contributions to the OPCW's Voluntary Fund for Assistance, our experts will be participating in the courses and programmes promoted by the Technical Secretariat, and this year in the month of June, it will be hosting a meeting of the GRULAC National Authorities in Mexico City.

Mexico welcomes the reports related to the evolution of the processes of destruction of chemical arsenals and abandoned chemical weapons, and is counting on the States Parties that are committed to both of these projects to accelerate their pace in order to complete their destruction shortly and comply with one of the principle pillars of the Convention.

At the same time, Mexico notes that the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has cooperated closely with the Technical Secretariat, both to resolve outstanding issues related to its initial declaration and in the investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons on its territory. Mexico applauds this approach and hopes that the authorities of the Government of Syria will continue to provide substantive evidence that will make it possible to clarify any incident that involves the alleged use of these lethal weapons and, in time, to identify the alleged perpetrators of these inhumane acts.

The Government of Mexico is convinced that international peace and security are based on prevention, which is why assistance, protection, and international cooperation are driving forces for generating sustainable economic and technological development in the States Parties, which includes environmental protection. This brings us back to the core importance of Articles X and XI and of the Convention.

The Government of Mexico is concerned that the Fourth Review Conference was unable to adopt a final report, which casts doubt upon the viability of the proposals for which there was essentially a consensus, including those that were developed by GRULAC. In this regard, we support the proposal to create a facilitation group to bring together the issues for which there was a consensus and make recommendations to the Executive Council and the Conference for their practical implementation.

Mexico believes that the Verification Information System would be able to streamline the process of on-site verification, and for this reason it has no objection to its use and, in this regard, will continue to carefully follow the updates and modifications of the electronic systems that the OPCW develops to improve the transmission and management of information.

The delegation of Mexico reaffirms its full support for multilateralism.

Mexico urges all States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to:

- a) unite forces to strengthen the Organisation;
- b) avoid any type of proposal or conduct that would harm the credibility of its work methods; and
- c) respect current procedures and move forward in that direction.

The experience of the Fourth Review Conference has shown us that the politicisation of the agenda does not contribute to the implementation and fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention; instead, it creates an obstacle.

I kindly request that this statement be considered a public and official document of this session.

Thank you.

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