



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-First Session  
9 – 12 July 2019

EC-91/NAT.33  
9 July 2019  
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**IRAQ**

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Your Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure and honour to represent my country's delegation and participate in the Ninety-First Session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). I have also the pleasure, Ambassador Andrea Perugini, to congratulate you and the distinguished Vice-Chairs on leading the Council. We are fully confident that your rich diplomatic experience and your wise leadership will contribute effectively to the success of this session and a fruitful debate. We pledge the full support of this delegation to you during this session in order to reach positive decisions.

The Iraqi delegation wishes also to once again thank and express its appreciation to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias Gonzalez, for his statement, and all personnel across the technical units of the Secretariat for their support for my country, which consists in the provision of training and assistance to our personnel for their full implementation of Iraq's obligations as a member of the OPCW.

This delegation wishes to align itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW, on behalf of the Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

This delegation also wishes to voice its deep regret over the closure of the Fourth Review Conference without a final report, owing to the absence of a consensus among the States Parties to the Convention. Consequently, our sense of responsibility and our commitment to the implementation of the Convention make it incumbent upon us all to reflect on the reasons behind that outcome.

On this basis, Iraq supports the proposal submitted by the Group of States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China to the co-facilitators tasked with considering the issues on which the



States Parties have achieved consensus in order to ensure that the OPCW conducts its activities in the proper manner in the years to come, as was the case at previous Review Conferences.

The OPCW has demonstrated its effectiveness in the verification of stringent measures for the safety and security of chemical weapons and related materials that still remain around the globe. Therefore, the Iraqi Government supports all international efforts aimed at preventing such weapons and hazardous materials from falling into the hands of terrorists. On that basis, in recent months, Iraq has supported all proposals for the addition of chemicals (that have no peaceful uses) to the Schedules of prohibited chemicals in the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention. We will maintain this position at future meetings, based on our belief in the need to support all proposals that may contribute to ensuring a world free of chemical weapons.

Iraq has been steadfastly clear on its position against attempts to politicise the work of the OPCW. Indeed, when stating its positions on draft decisions, Iraq has always emphasised that the OPCW must preserve its identity as a purely technical organisation. Further, Iraq firmly believes that it is incumbent upon us all to implement the conventions and treaties on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons.

Iraq also wishes to voice its deep concern regarding the use of toxic chemicals as a weapon, and strongly condemns such use by anyone, anywhere, and at any time. Iraq has suffered from the use of chemical weapons during its war against Daesh terrorist groups. These have targeted civilians and security forces. Today, Iraq's victory over terrorism is ushering in an important period: that of reconstructing, building, and reinforcing security.

Therefore, my country's Government calls again upon the States that have not yet adhered to the Convention to do so as soon as possible, and open their related facilities and sites to verification by the OPCW Technical Secretariat. On this occasion, the Iraqi Government emphasises the central role of the OPCW in the total elimination of these lethal chemical weapons.

Finally, I should like to reiterate that my country's Government is resolutely committed to the success of the activities of this Organisation, with a view to achieving our desired objective of preventing the recurrence of the use of chemical weapons. In this respect, my country's delegation voices its deep concern regarding the use of chemical weapons, and condemns such use in the strongest terms. Our delegation reiterates that it will keep up its efforts to overcome challenges and minimise differences in order to reach effective results and decisions that can contribute to realising our objective, namely the total and final elimination of chemical weapons, thus allaying the concerns of the Member States of this Organisation.

I request that this statement be adopted as an official document of this Session, and published on the official OPCW website.