



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-First Session

9 – 12 July 2019

EC-91/NAT.38

9 July 2019

ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CARLOS HERRERA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Andrea Perugini,

I would like to begin my statement by welcoming your appointment as Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”) of the OPCW. I express my sincere congratulations and the firm support of my delegation to contribute to the success of your management. We are confident that your leadership will adequately guide the development of our work in this important body in taking decisions.

Likewise, we thank the Director-General for his full report and we recognise the work that the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) has been carrying out in order to promote the role of the OPCW within the system of international security and cooperation, as well as the efforts that are under way to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

We have carefully reviewed the Note by the Secretariat addressing the work of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), which was established by the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in paragraph 10 of its decision of June 2018. We are pleased to know that the Team has been fully staffed following the criteria of geographical distribution and gender equality, and that a provisional list of registered incidents in the Syrian Arab Republic has already been defined for the start of work, in line with the Team’s mandate. It stands to note that this mandate is clearly defined in paragraph 10 of the Conference’s June 2018 decision. As such, the Secretariat, led by the Director-General, must now proceed with its implementation as it has been doing to date.

We now consider it of vital importance that all of the States Parties of the OPCW, primarily the Syrian Arab Republic, cooperate with the work of the IIT, as the establishment of this mechanism was a legal decision and is legally binding for all States Parties. In this regard, paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention underscores the obligation of all States Parties to cooperate with the Secretariat as it performs its functions; it is our duty to facilitate all means necessary for the implementation of the objectives set out in this area.

In line with the above, we call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to reconsider its decision to deny IIT members access both to its territory and to documentation.



My delegation has continually expressed its strong concern regarding the use of chemical weapons on Syrian territory. It is for this reason that we once again reiterate our support for the Fact-Finding Mission of the OPCW, the work of which has been highly professional, objective, and independent, and has made it possible to clarify a variety of incidents involving the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Being an essential part of the Secretariat of our Organisation, as States Parties we must contribute to the strengthening of the Fact-Finding Mission and defend its institutional nature and impartiality.

Within the framework of the implementation of Article X of the Convention and as a sign of Peru's commitment to this objective, I would like to underscore that the city of Lima will be hosting the Regional Pilot Workshop for GRULAC States Parties on national measures for protection against chemical weapons on from 9 to 13 September this year. This workshop is aimed at facilitating the identification and/or design of national programmes on protection against chemical weapons, in line with the obligation set out in paragraph 4 of Article X, which stipulates the annual submission of information to the Secretariat on national measures in place against the use of chemical weapons within the territories of each country. We expect that this will be a contribution in our region toward optimal compliance with our responsibilities to the Organisation.

I would like to express the support of my delegation for the Director-General's proposal on OPCW human resources. We believe that this is an approach that the States Parties must take into account when engaging in substantive discussions on this complex and urgent topic. In this regard, we appreciate the efforts of the facilitators designated by this Council, the Ambassadors of El Salvador and Indonesia, aimed at identifying the most convenient mechanism for a broad and inclusive way to address issues related to the tenure policy and careers within the Organisation, among other issues that have enjoyed a consensus of the States Parties.

I request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---