

**Intervention of H.E. Mgr. Aldo Cavalli
Permanent Representative of the Holy See to the OPCW**

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Ambassadors and Delegates,

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by welcoming you, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov, the Chairperson of this Session of the Conference of the States Parties. My congratulations for your election.

At the same time, I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his high professional leadership.

I would like to express my appreciation also to the Technical Secretariat and to all who work with ability and dedication for this Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

To oversee the future, it seems useful to me, to underline some aspects of the work done by this Organization:

1. States Parties have given their full support to the objectives of the OPCW, participating in an effective manner to the activities of the Organization, understanding the value of working together to achieve the desired goals.

2. This agreement between the States Parties resulted in the elimination of almost 97% of the world's existing chemical weapons.
3. The common consensus has been a central point in achieving such a significant result, which has substantially limited the existence of chemical weapons and thus ensured greater security for the life of humanity.
4. The success of this multilateral diplomacy was the result of a number of essential conditions that were created between the States Parties, such as goodwill, the ability to relate and mutual trust.

For this reason, the OPCW genuinely deserved the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Chairperson,

The International Community and the Multilateral System have experienced a period of distress in recent years, which has prevented appropriate multilateral solutions to the problems. Everyone acknowledges the need to re-establish dialogue, trust, credibility and common consensus.

We hope that the OPCW will be able to establish an effective dialogue in this Assembly, in order to achieve the complete elimination of chemical weapons in the world and to address, in unity, the new challenges that this issue may present.

Mr. Chairperson,

I request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and be published on the public Website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.