



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Fourth Session
25 – 29 November 2019

C-24/NAT.30
26 November 2019
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

PERU

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CARLOS HERRERA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson, Your Excellency Mr Krassimir Kostov, Ambassador of Bulgaria, Director-General, colleagues and friends,

I would like to begin my statement by congratulating you on your designation as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW and by expressing my delegation's support for the success of your management. We trust that your leadership will adequately guide the development of our work at this most important decision-making body of our Organisation.

My delegation also congratulates the delegation of Azerbaijan for recently having undertaken the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement and China and aligns itself with the Movement's statement as read by the High Representative of that country.

We welcome the report presented by the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, as well as the hard work by the Technical Secretariat under his leadership aimed at strengthening the role of the OPCW, one of the most successful international organisations in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. As such, we would like to reiterate Peru's strong support of all of the Organisation's institutions and mechanisms, such as the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), the establishment of which stems from the decision taken by this Conference in absolute accordance with the rules of procedure to which we are bound.

With regard to the Investigation and Identification Team, we welcome the full establishment thereof under the leadership of Ambassador Santiago Oñate; we expect that the drafting of the list of priorities and the development of work will be crystallised in the first report to be submitted in the months to come. On the other hand, we regret that the Syrian Arab Republic has not granted the team access to the sites of incidents that are under investigation in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which underscores the obligation of all States Parties to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in the performance of its functions.

My delegation believes that the support of all States Parties for the OPCW should be demonstrated via the approval of the 2020 budget as recommended by the Executive Council, so as to ensure that the Organisation has the requisite resources to function adequately. As it is necessary, Peru will vote in favour of the budget and the gradual transition to a biannual



budget, which will allow for mid-term planning of the OPCW's objectives. We urge all delegations to support this and, in doing so, to support the decisions that this Conference has taken in strict compliance with our rules.

For the first time in the history of the OPCW, we will have the opportunity to update the schedules of chemicals prohibited by our constituent treaty. Peru believes it is of vital importance to include the families of neurotoxic agents that were used in the Salisbury and Amesbury incidents in the United Kingdom, as well as all substances with the properties set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention. For this reason, my delegation will support the proposal of the United States, Canada, and the Netherlands on this matter. Likewise, we welcome the modified proposal from the Russian Federation, which includes only the four families that have been positively assessed by the Technical Secretariat, and for this reason, it will also have Peru's support. In this regard, we await the consensus-based adoption of both proposals in parallel at this Conference with just one bang of the gavel.

Peru has responded positively to the Organisation's requests to strengthen the implementation of Article X of the Convention, specifically regarding assistance and protection against chemical weapons. However, while many countries have contributed in some way to this area, only two countries—one of which is Peru—have offered assistance in all of the three possible modalities: contributing to the voluntary fund for assistance, concluding an agreement with the OPCW to offer assistance when required, and declaring the type of assistance that it can provide unilaterally.

In this regard, I refer to the pilot regional workshop for GRULAC States Parties on national measures for protection against chemical weapons, which Peru hosted from 9 to 13 September this year, with the participation of the Organisation's Deputy Director-General. This objective of this workshop was to facilitate the identification and design of national programmes for protection against chemical weapons. We hope this experience can be replicated in the future for the benefit of our region.

My delegation will continue to insist on the importance of Article XI of the Convention, through an integral approach that includes cooperation in economic and technological development aimed at strengthening and developing the chemical industry of all States Parties. Within this framework, we believe it is relevant that all regions have designated laboratories, including those in Latin America and Africa, which currently do not enjoy such resources.

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

Thank you.