



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Fourth Session
25 – 29 November 2019

C-24/NAT.25
29 November 2019
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CUBA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES ON THE IMPORTANCE
OF COUNTERING THE POLITICISATION OF THE WORK OF THE OPCW
AGENDA ITEM 24**

The delegation of Cuba categorically rejects the continued attempts to use the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to impose spurious political interests that have nothing to do with either the Chemical Weapons Convention or the purposes of the Organisation, or with the agenda of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

The Cuban delegation rejects the attempts to move the discussion of matters that have caused a division in other forums to the OPCW, including challenging the legitimacy of governments and considering topics that are strictly within the domestic purview of the States in question. These actions have no toehold in international law, the mandate of the Convention, or in the activities and proceedings of the work of the Organisation.

The delegation of Cuba reiterates what was expressed at the Executive Council sessions in 2019: the legitimacy of a government stems from the express and sovereign will of its people, not the recognition of foreign powers. Opposing discussion of this matter at the OPCW represents the defence of the survival of the norms of international law and the United Nations Charter.

The Cuban delegation reiterates its firm and unwavering solidarity with Constitutional President Nicolás Maduro Moros and the Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its delegation to the OPCW.

Cuba will continue to defend peace, multilateralism, and the sovereign equality of all States.

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