



**OPCW**

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**THE PHILIPPINES**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

Firstly, I join others in welcoming Ambassador Agustin Vasquez Gomez of El Salvador as Chairperson of the Executive Council and assure him of my delegation's full support for the success of this meeting. I also wish to express appreciation to Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, who had tirelessly worked to reach consensus among Member States on issues of urgent and current concerns.

In this vein, I also wish to thank Director-General Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for all their hard work since the last session of the Executive Council, and assure them of my delegation's continuing support for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I am honoured to represent the delegation of the Republic of the Philippines to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) at the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council. This is the first time in 12 years that the Philippines takes a seat in this august body and as such considers this opportunity seriously and with utmost integrity. It is our hope that with this membership, the Philippines is able to contribute substantially in the achievement of consensual decisions in making our world a safer place and ensuring that all countries are able to equitably reap the benefits of the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The Philippines aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the CWC and China.

In particular, the Philippines emphasises its support for the following:

- (a) a consensus-based decision that would facilitate the successful implementation of the agreed technical changes to the Annex on Chemicals of the CWC;
- (b) the condemnation in the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups;



- (c) ensuring that sovereign Member States are assisted in the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the CWC, while recognising the valuable role that multilateral and non-governmental organisations play in the protection and promotion of regional and global security and development.

As such, the Philippines promotes the view that the development and security of all peoples, anywhere, is a collective agenda and objective for which everyone is responsible because we are all stakeholders in this matter. In this regard, the Philippines believes that the role of multilateral and regional organizations in the creation and maintenance of trust among and between states and non-governmental organisations is crucial to the process of achieving global and regional peace, security, and prosperity;

- (d) the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI through an agreed timeframe, identified modalities, agenda, and funding;
- (e) continued strong support for the implementation of capacity-building programmes that aim to enhance the national capacities and implementation measures of States Parties, with a particular emphasis on developing regions; and
- (f) the promotion of equitable gender and geographical balance in the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat, while ensuring that the recruitment process continues to ensure the value of individual merit and distinction.

The Philippines has always believed that a strong OPCW is critical, ultimately, to its national security and growth. As a developing country, with porous borders and a substantial number of its citizens working and residing in all corners of the world, the Philippines recognises the crucial importance of cooperation on the global and regional level on matters that can only be effectively addressed through collaborative efforts.

It is in this regard that the Philippines calls for the continued dialogue on the issue of the aerosolized use of central nervous system (CNS)-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, with the end view of achieving consensus on the recognition that these chemicals violate the basic tenets of the CWC.

The Philippines looks forward to a healthy atmosphere of debate on this session of the Executive Council, with the objective of clarifying the most essential issues of contention and working towards a common goal of ensuring the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all Articles of the Convention, to which every one of us is bound.

I request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council and be posted on the OPCW website.

Salamat po. Thank you.