



OPCW

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW IN RESPONSE TO THE STATEMENT OF THE
DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the questions raised in the statement of the United States of America, which are an attack upon the sovereignty of a full member of the OPCW and as such must be condemned.

Such actions constitute a continued attempt to use the Organisation in an effort to impose political interests that have nothing to do with the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention or the mandate of the Organisation, and the States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.

The Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW once again wishes to emphasise the principle that in their international relations, States must abstain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Venezuela is a free and sovereign country that answers only to its people about its internal affairs. The legitimate Government of Venezuela is the one led by President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May 2018 with 68 per cent of the votes during the elections of that period, which were witnessed by 120 international observers.

Therefore, the only lawful and legitimate representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW is the one that has been exercised by its Permanent Representative for several years.

The United States of America cannot teach anyone lessons, since it commits crimes against humanity and exercises intolerance, racism, discrimination, and xenophobia against migrants as a policy. The Government of the United States of America has as its preferred partner a narco-State with 70 per cent of the world's cocaine production; therefore, it is not a good example to follow, and it has no moral grounds to question the legitimacy of any government in the world.

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council and be posted on both the Organisation's external server and public website

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