



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**STATEMENT BY THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN  
COUNTRIES (GRULAC) ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention that belong to the region of Latin America and the Caribbean express our solidarity with all of the victims of the COVID-19 pandemic around the world. Likewise, we urge all States Parties to work from a place of diplomacy and international cooperation in a collaborative, united manner in order to successfully tackle this new challenge.

We welcome the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Andrea Perugini, Permanent Representative of Italy, the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the team of the Technical Secretariat, for their hard work preparing for this Executive Council in such exceptional conditions.

GRULAC welcomes the fact that over the period from 12 May 2020 to 11 May 2021, our regional group will be taking on the Chairmanship of the Executive Council of this honourable Organisation. Our representation unanimously agreed upon the nomination of H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to the OPCW, in light of what he has repeatedly demonstrated, his abilities, and his dedication to the work of the Organisation. We once again reiterate our support for his leadership of the Council's work in the months to come.

On this same note, we value the cooperation shown in the rotation of the Executive Council Chairmanship over this last period, and we express our appreciation for the good will of H.E. Ambassador Andrea Perugini, Permanent Representative of Italy, over the period from 12 May 2019 to 11 May 2020. We congratulate him on his excellent work and performance during his Chairmanship, a legacy that we will continue to build upon.

We kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Fourth Session of this Council and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

Thank you.

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