



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Fifth Session
6 – 9 October 2020

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ENGLISH only

THE PHILIPPINES

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

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I wish to take this opportunity to convey to H.E. Agustín Vásquez Gómez as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Philippine delegation's full support for his chairmanship and work towards a successful session of the Executive Council ("the Council").

I also wish to convey my delegation's appreciation to Director-General Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for all their hard work in ensuring the continuity of operations and accomplishments of essential work despite the constraints and challenges posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The Philippines is deeply committed to the noble goals of the OPCW and to all its Member States in working together towards a world free of chemical weapons, while ensuring that all countries are able to equitably reap the benefits of the peaceful uses of chemistry. This, the President of the Philippines H.E. Rodrigo Roa Duterte himself emphasised as he addressed the Seventy-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, and called on all Member States to fully implement key disarmament treaties, including the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention").

Towards these goals, the Philippines actively engages itself in the work of the OPCW in the promotion of transparency and cooperation through the building of broad-based trust. We support the collective commitment to peace and stability through multilateralism and rule of law. As part of its capacity-building efforts, the Philippines participates in the various training programs offered by OPCW experts, and volunteers its expertise further afield when needed.

The agenda of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Council will tackle pressing issues and challenges. The Council will carry the weight of the responsibility in addressing these issues and challenges. We are confident that the Council will measure up to the task.

The Philippines supports a strong OPCW fulfilling its mandate. We call for dialogue and robust debates that will allow all of us to reach the best understanding and best agreement on these issues. We call for steadfast and strengthened cooperation on matters of common interest, the Draft 2021 Programme and Budget, the aerosolised use of central nervous system(CNS)-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, and the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF).



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I have the honor to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Council and be posted on the website.

Maraming salamat. Thank you very much.

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