



EMBAIXADA DA REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA NO REINO DOS PAÍSES BAIXOS
GROOT HERTOOGINNELAAN 16 / 2517EG DEN HAAG
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DECLARATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE OPCW
STATE PARTY CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY HER EXCELLENCY MARIA ISABEL DE RESENDE ENCOGE,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA AT OPCW.
NOVEMBER 30 TO DECEMBER 4

Mr. President,

Mr. General Director,

Distinguished delegates,

Excellencies,

1. It is an honor to present the Declaration on behalf of the Government of Angola, at the 25th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address this forum.
2. Angola, would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador José António Zabalgoitia Trejo, of the United Mexican States, as President of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties, we are confident that His Excellency Ambassador José Trejo's leadership at this conference will come to a successful conclusion. We also want to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ambassador Krassimir Kostov, of Bulgaria for the way he chaired the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of States Parties.
3. We take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, Director General of OPCW, for the comprehensive report he has presented us and to express our appreciation to the staff of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, for their dedication to the implementation of the noble objectives of the Convention.
4. The Republic of Angola, is in agreement with the statements of the Group of African Countries, presented by its coordinator, His Excellency Ambassador Lawrence Lenayapa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to OPCW, and the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China, presented by His Excellency Ambassador Fikrat akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to OPCW.
5. The Republic of Angola joins the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Bandung Conference and the adoption of its Fundamental Principles, which is the core of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China and reflects its commitments and aspirations.

6. Angola is convinced that there is not much left to achieve the universality of the Convention, the delegation of the Republic of Angola calls the States that are not yet members of the Convention to acknowledge or adhere to the Convention.
7. The use of toxic chemicals as weapons, anywhere by any person, and under any circumstances is strongly condemnable and totally against the dispositions of the Convention, in this context the Republic of Angola condemns its use, and holders must be held responsible. We condemn Chemical Terrorism, and call States that possess Chemical Weapons to continue their efforts to eliminate them completely.
8. We call for the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all the dispositions of Article XI with a sight to contribute to the economic and technological development of States Parties. They add considerable importance to all States Parties and international cooperation in the area of chemical activities for the Convention, including the international interchange of scientific and technical information on chemical products and equipment for purposes non prohibited by the CWC.
9. We recognize that the Workshop of annual revision and assessment of the agreed structured components of the implementation of Article XI, is a useful platform for developing solid measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory application of this article. In this perspective, in order to achieve further improvements, we call for an enhancement of this Workshop, in order to ensure that it fulfills this important purpose.
10. We appreciate the active participation of States Parties during the Annual revision and assessment Workshop held on November 2, 2020 and request the Article XI Facilitator to report on the ideas that emerged, and the activities carried out during the intersectional period to be reflected in the report of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties.
11. The Angolan Republic highlights and encourages ongoing actions under the margin of the “Africa Program” and is grateful for the completion of the “Fourth Phase” of the “Program to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa” and appreciates the efforts made to start the “Fifth Phase”, as well as, the progress already achieved and for the helpful support provided by the program donors.
12. Angola hopes that the eight objectives identified are achieved, as reported in the Director-General's Note C-25/DG.9, dated September 10, 2020, and we highlight the importance of ensuring its sustainability with the OPCW regular budget.
13. We congratulate the work carried out by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, and encourage its continuity. We also call on all States Parties to fully comply with their obligations under Article X of the Convention. We emphasize the responsibility of States Parties and the OPCW Technical Secretariat to assist victims of chemical weapons and to coordinate the delivery of necessary equipment and medications in accordance with Article X.
14. We call for the non-imposition of any restrictions, that prevent assistance to the victims of Chemical Weapons, that are contrary to the idea and spirit of the Convention.
15. Angola reiterates for a wide geographical and gender distribution of specialists in the composition of OPCW Organization, with diverse experience, to achieve a greater

balance and urges the hiring of staff in the Technical Secretariat to be fair and transparent at all levels.

16. The Republic of Angola takes this opportunity to thank the OPCW COVID-19 Task Force, and all Organization staff for the continued efforts made in the adverse circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the work of the Organization, is being implemented through innovation and adaptability for the accomplishment of this Conference of States Parties and to express its solidarity with all States in the world suffering the effects of the pandemic.
17. We underline the importance that the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) performs in this time of great vulnerability of victims of chemical weapons due to COVID-19, where specific and urgent assistance is required from most capable States Parties to help alleviate the adverse impact of COVID-19.
18. Despite the impediments caused by the pandemic of COVID-19, that is afflicting the world, the Republic of Angola has done everything to fully implement the CWC and is committed to continue to work with the Technical Secretariat to overcome the obstacles that still persist, for the adequacy of its national legislation.
19. We recognize that the full implementation and non-discriminatory of all dispositions of the Convention contributes to international peace and security, as well as to the economic and technological development of States Parties.
20. We acknowledge our position to contribute to the achievement of total disarmament, under strict and effective control of the international community, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.
21. We reiterate that the decision-making practice by consensus of States Parties is the correct approach to achieve the objectives and commitments of the Convention. We call all States Parties not to polarize or politicize the Organization's work. We also reaffirm the centrality of PMOs in assessing and implementing all matters related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.
22. Angola believes that the adoption of the OPCW Budget Program and other issues of importance of this organization, through consensus, constitutes the fundamental principle for achieving the objectives of the CWC.

Mr. President,

23. In conclusion, we encourage all States Parties to work in a spirit of goodwill towards the successful conclusion of this session through consensus.

Thank you very much Mr. President

Thank you Excellencies and distinguished delegates.

The Republic of Angola hereby requests that this statement be considered an official document and published on the official OPCW website.