

STATEMENT
OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AT THE 25TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES OF THE
OPCW
30 NOVEMBER-04 DECEMBER 2020

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction. President Rodrigo Duterte himself, addressing the 75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September, said that there is no aspiration nor ambition that can justify the use of weapons that destroy indiscriminately and completely.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OPCW plays a crucial role in ensuring that chemicals are never used as weapons against anyone, anywhere and anytime. As such, the Organization should be sufficiently funded to enable it to fully undertake its mandate. Discussions on the 2021 programme and budget thus remain highly relevant.

On the matter of central nervous system-acting chemicals, the Philippines does not possess, manufacture nor use these chemicals for law enforcement purposes. However, the possibility of these chemicals being used by terrorist groups are real. President Duterte further highlighted the dangers of such weapons falling into the hands of terrorists, stating clearly that “the Philippines will do everything and partner with anyone protect the innocent from terrorism in all its manifestations.”

The Philippines shares the concern of States Parties on the increasing polarization of discussions in the Organization. We strongly believe that open and transparent engagements and discussions can only result in better understanding of the issues and a shared recognition of our collective responsibility under the Convention. Thank you.