



OPCW

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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY MINISTER COUNSELLOR JAIME MOSCOSO
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,

We welcome the report of the Director-General and reiterate our recognition of the work spearheaded by the Technical Secretariat, together with the Deputy Director-General. These months have led us to have even more appreciation for the professionalism and efficiency of the Organisation and its constant efforts to maintain a high level of preparation to confront the threat of the use of chemical weapons, with measures in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention and the decisions that we have adopted.

We share the view that the OPCW has a fundamental role as a repository for knowledge and experience in the field of chemical weapons—characteristics that we wish to preserve in order to act against new chemical threats.

This session of the Executive Council should, in particular, deal with financial matters and the budget of the Organisation. In this regard, we hope to reach agreements that will allow us to recommend the Programme and Budget at the next Conference of the States Parties. We welcome facilitators Marcin Kawalowski and Matteo Fachinotti for their efforts and for the results that have been achieved, allowing us to envision a global resolution on this issue.

With regard to the budget, we support the application of the zero-nominal-growth rule, which allows us to avoid any increased contributions from Member States. The economic times in which our countries are living, mainly the product of the COVID-19 pandemic, have led us to be particularly cautious in this area.

We highlight what was expressed by the Technical Secretariat, as international cooperation and assistance continue to be a central focal point and a basis upon which the capacity-building requirements of the States Parties are supported in line with the Convention. Likewise, the programmes of the Secretariat should respond to the needs related to national implementation in line with their respective priorities and security concerns. Facilitation as applicable under Article XI constitutes a prime means of preserving this purpose and we are committed to supporting the work in this area by participating in the workshop that will take place this year.



We also trust that the Associate Programme will resume in 2021, as it constitutes a particularly valuable tool uniting theory and practice, thus including the perspectives of both development and investigation. This should have a positive effect on chemical security and on the response abilities of our countries. We also believe in the correctness of the approach that values regional seminars on the safe management of chemical activities as a platform, and we believe that participating States can use that resource to share experiences and needs, and as a practical guide for the chemical industry.

At the same time, the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention deserves to be highlighted for its approach to capacity building and exploring ways to respond to region-specific requirements, ensuring association with States Parties. We support the idea of this programme as a strategic one that enhances the work of the Organisation.

We wish to express our recognition of and appreciation for the Technical Secretariat, which has adjusted to these new circumstances and continues to develop a variety of activities via online modalities, in spite of the current pandemic.

We have carefully analysed the proposal to use a portion of the 2018 cash surplus to finance a new special fund to be called the “COVID-19 Variability Impact Fund”. We believe it is appropriate to use this to finance activities that have been postponed due to this pandemic and that are essential according to our priorities. We find the proposal to set up this Fund to support the maintenance of the zero-nominal-growth of the budget noteworthy.

Likewise, as we have expressed above, we have faith that the future Centre for Chemistry and Technology will serve as an apt means for our countries to advance in knowledge and preparation, and that it will have the resources it needs to provide those services to all States Parties. We hope to continue contributing to its completion.

With regard to the agenda as it concerns Syria, we would like to underscore that we have taken note of the exchanges and proposals being made to progress with the additions to Syria’s initial declaration, and thus overcome any inconsistencies and outstanding issues. We support the work of the DAT and its efforts in line with paragraph 3 of Council decision EC-81/DEC.4, and paragraph 6 of decision EC-83/DEC.5. We hope that the meetings aimed at achieving this goal will resume promptly.

We also call for continuing the cooperative efforts of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria, and the completion of the planned inspections of the Scientific Studies and Research Centres (SSRC) in Barzah and Jamrayah.

The Organisation should also receive due cooperation aimed at continuing the implementation of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.4 and Executive Council decision EC-94/DEC.2. The Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), directed by Ambassador Santiago Oñate, is equally deserving of this support in full confidence that it will continue to provide information about the origin of the use of chemical weapons in said country in the cases in which the FFM has determined that the use of chemical weapons did in fact take place—which we find regrettable.

In line with the above, my country aligns itself with the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, as presented by the distinguished delegation of Azerbaijan to this Executive Council, with the exception of paragraph 13 of said statement.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.

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