



OPCW

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EL SALVADOR

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Your Excellency Director-General
Mr Chairperson of the Executive Council,
Your Excellencies, Permanent Representatives,
Members and observers of the Executive Council,
Distinguished authorities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,
Friends,

El Salvador recognises that the effects of the pandemic have had an impact on all of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to varying degrees and, for this reason, my delegation believes it appropriate to express, at the start of this national statement, our profound sense of solidarity concerning the loss of lives that has thrown daily life in our societies upside down, while also voicing a strong sense of hope for all of the collective efforts of support and cooperation currently under way, searching to ensure a better world for this and future generations.

My delegation is grateful for your leadership ahead of this session of the Executive Council, and in particular for the Director-General and all of the staff of the Technical Secretariat, who, in the logistical organisation and adopted modalities, have assigned the utmost priority to the health of the participants and hygienic safety of the event, which was noted both at the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council and at this session. We expect the best results from this, and we reiterate the commitment of our delegation to supporting the procedures that you have put in place.

My delegation recognises and welcomes the efforts of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division to keep training activities going in spite of the effects of the pandemic by hosting online courses as well as by providing remote support for the various activities developed by the National Authorities, thus facilitating follow-up actions and the fulfilment of responsibilities in line with the work plans of the States Parties. We would also take this opportunity to underscore that the virtual modality should be intended to be and applied as an exception, and not as a substitute for the usual in-person introduction and training activities.

El Salvador welcomes the Director-General and his presentation of the 2021 Programme and Budget, which focuses on the central objectives of the Organisation and sets out a strategic vision with a view to achieving mid- and long-term priorities, including the verification of the destruction of chemical weapons.



There is an alignment between the approach of the Director-General and the importance of preserving the knowledge and experience acquired on non-routine missions related to the alleged use of chemical weapons, the training programmes for inspectors, and the objectives that seek to strengthen the efficiency of the work of the Secretariat in support of the States Parties. El Salvador supports the formulation of the Programme and Budget as presented by the Director-General and hopes the Executive Council will find a path to consensus that will make it possible to submit it to the Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation again congratulates the Director-General for his decided commitment and institutional impetus that has contributed to the project to build the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, a centre of technical and scientific excellence that will provide certified leadership in the processes of investigation, analysis, training, and capacity building and that, starting in 2022, will serve as the Organisation's flagship for the benefit of the international community as a whole, significantly improving the capacities and the position of the OPCW in its mission to ensure a world free of chemical weapons.

Having supported the decision on "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic", which was adopted at the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council in July 2020, El Salvador will continue to closely follow the report of the Director-General regarding the implementation of the measures stipulated in and according to said decision; it will also support every additional decision aimed at strengthening the regime established by the Convention.

In these same terms, El Salvador recognises the importance of the initiatives that have in turn spurred the consideration of central nervous system-acting chemicals and the importance of the States Parties putting into place points of mutual understanding and consensus, which will then make it possible to address the essence of this matter based on a technical, objective, and strong foundation, bearing in mind, among other things, precedents such as those derived from the work of the Organisation's Scientific Advisory Body. Since these precedents were established, there exists the recognition that said chemicals, the use of which is related to law enforcement, have led to permanent damage and death due to their irreversible effects on vital processes. Technical consideration by the relevant National Authorities is equally pertinent.

Within this context, and facing recent events, my delegation reiterates its position by condemning in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons and the use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstance, and for any reason whatsoever. Any action taken in contradiction to such is completely reprehensible and constitutes a grave violation of the Convention and the standards of international law.

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

Thank you.

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