



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Fifth Session  
6 – 9 October 2020

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6 October 2020  
ENGLISH and RUSSIAN only

**BELARUS**

**STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE DELEGATION  
OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA  
AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an international, inter-governmental organisation with clearly defined objectives and tasks. Recognising or declining to recognise the status of one government or another is outside of the OPCW's authorities.

According to Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure of the Executive Council, the credentials of the representatives of States Parties submitted to the Director-General of the OPCW Technical Secretariat "shall be issued either by the Head of State or Government, or by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the member concerned, or by any other authority acting on their behalf". The Venezuelan side has not withdrawn the credentials of their Permanent Representative to the OPCW.

The Republic of Belarus believes that attempts to cast doubt upon the legitimacy of the credentials of the representatives of the lawful authorities of Venezuela to the OPCW come into contradiction with the norms of international law and distract the Organisation from taking decisions on vital tasks in line with its mandate.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Council and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

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