



**Statement of H.E. Haifa Aissami Madah, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW in response to the statement of the delegation of the United States of America at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-25)**

1. The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the questionings contained in the statement of the United States of America, which are an attack on the sovereignty of a full Member of the OPCW and as such must be condemned.
2. Such actions constitute a continuing attempt to use the Organisation in an effort to impose political interests that have nothing to do with the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention or the mandate of the Organisation, and the States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.
3. The Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW once again wishes to emphasise the principle that states, in their international relations, must abstain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
4. Venezuela as a free and sovereign country only responds to its people about its internal affairs. The legitimate Government of Venezuela is the one led by President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May, 2018 with 68 percent of the votes during the elections of that period, which were witnessed by 120 international observers.
5. Therefore, the only lawful and legitimate representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW is the one exercised by its Permanent Representative for several years.
6. The United States of America cannot teach anyone lessons, since it commits crimes against humanity and exercises intolerance, racism, discrimination and xenophobia against migrants as a policy. The Government of the United States of America has as its preferred partner a narco-state with 70% of the world's cocaine production, therefore, it's not a good example to follow and it has no morality to question the legitimacy of any government in the world.

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela requests that this statement be considered an official document of the **Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties** and be posted on both the external server and the public website of the Organisation. -