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**VENEZUELA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Addendum**

Mr Chairperson,

Once again, our country reiterates its concern regarding the distorted practice via which—in light of false allegations—suggestions are made of the use or alleged use of chemical weapons or chemicals as weapons on the territory of a State Party, based on rumours and baseless speculation and which, therefore, lack any credibility whatsoever without a technical and scientific investigation. The surge in such practices is absolutely unacceptable and should bring those involved to reflect on their actions.

Within this context, our efforts should be aimed at improving the efficacy of the OPCW's activities when it comes to addressing cases of alleged use of chemical weapons: It is imperative that all approaches are put into practice strictly within the framework of this Convention. This concerns maintaining and strengthening the most important multilateral instrument in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament.

The Programme and Budget is, without a doubt, a subject matter to which my country assigns great importance. While we appreciate the efforts of the Technical Secretariat and the co-facilitators for the presentation and the consultations that have been carried out, my delegation nonetheless would reiterate once again certain elements that we addressed previously.

We support a budgetary reallocation that, in addition to providing a substantial boost in international cooperation, will also foster economic and technological development for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, as well as national capacity building for States Parties—all within the framework of the Convention, and without sacrificing the essence or objectives that it sets out.

We believe that initiatives such as these are by no means incompatible with the zero-nominal-growth budgetary policy observed by the Organisation to date, which Venezuela fully supports, bearing in mind the global economic realities these days, which are now further complicated by the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.



It is of the utmost importance that we maintain the good, established practice at this Organisation with regard to the procedure for the presentation and subsequent adoption of separate decisions on each of the items comprising the OPCW's Programme and Budget, rather than as a single "omnibus" decision. We believe that, for the sake of transparency and in order to contribute to prompt decision making on the matter, issues of a distinct nature and scope should not be mixed or lumped together into the same "package".

With regard to the cash surplus or unexecuted allocations from prior fiscal periods, our country expresses its wish that said funds be managed strictly in compliance with the Organisation's Financial Regulations and in every case attributed to the quotas and contributions of our country. For this reason, we do not agree with these being allocated for purposes other than those set out in the OPCW's Financial Regulations.

For several years now, my country has been encountering a series of various types of aggression, attempted coups, and sanctions imposed against its financial institutions. Even before the coercive, unilateral measures—which became sanctions against our country—were made public, they were imposed, making commercial trade and the development of our economy impossible, and impeding the acquisition of foodstuffs, medicines, medical equipment, and general goods and services that are fundamental for the population and the sustenance of our most important national industry, the petrol industry—a fundamental pillar of our economy—combined with a policy on confiscating our assets and freezing our country's accounts of nearly 30 billion dollars.

Likewise, our country reiterates its willingness to honour its financial commitments to the OPCW. In this regard, we recognise the goodwill of the Director-General in supporting the necessary arrangements for the establishment—both by the Organisation and the host country—of a mechanism or channel that will allow our country to have a secure way to honour said financial commitments. Regrettably, until now, these efforts have not borne fruit due to the coercive, unilateral measures that make normal interaction impossible, and in turn prevent us from fulfilling our commitments. For all of these reasons, we reiterate our request for assistance, both from the relevant divisions of the Technical Secretariat and from the national bodies of the host country, to facilitate the transfer of financial resources from our country to the Organisation.

With respect to the proposal to modify the Regulations of the Advisory Body for Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), my country supports respect for the legitimate and sovereign right that all States Parties have to nominate the candidates that they believe meet the professional requirements for taking on the mandate of this Body.

Our delegation, consistent with the provisions and principles that we have continually upheld in all of our statements, has insisted against politicising and polarising our discussions in order to preserve the eminently technical essence of the OPCW.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, we request that this addendum to the statement by the Venezuelan delegation be considered an official document of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation's website.

Thank you for your kind attention.