



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fifth Session  
30 November – 1 December 2020 (Part I)

C-25/NAT.8  
1 December 2020  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SORAYA ÁLVAREZ NÚÑEZ  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
EXPLANATION OF THE VOTE ON THE DRAFT DECISION**

Mr Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation voted against draft decision C-25/DEC/CRP.3, entitled “Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021”, due to important concerns regarding the procedure adopted for its presentation, which takes into account neither the practices that have been followed for over 20 years when working on this matter nor the Financial Regulations of the OPCW, and due to substantive questions about its content, which are summarised below.

- The inclusion of issues that are different in nature and which culminate in one single draft decision—i.e., an omnibus decision—is not the way to settle the fundamental and concrete differences of the States Parties in one key decision affecting the Organisation’s work; to the contrary, it takes us farther away from any opportunity to search for consensus-based alternatives to resolving our tasks via a genuine negotiation process.
- The provision of financing for activities that are not part of any general agreement of the Organisation, and on which a profound debate continues in connection with its technical nature and pertinence according to the mandate of the OPCW, as well as the principle that the contents of the Draft Programme and Budget should not be interpreted in a way that contradicts the provisions of the Convention; this overlaps with other matters, such as the right of each State Party to decide if the 2018 cash surplus will be used to finance activities in line with the Financial Regulations.
- The omission of any language on the Organisation’s zero nominal-growth policy in the narrative of the decision adopted on the OPCW’s 2021 Programme and Budget.
- The omission in the Draft 2021 Programme and Budget of the priority of resources allocated for international cooperation and assistance for protection against chemical weapons, the economic and technological development of the States Parties, and capacity-building activities, which constitute a part of this Organisation’s mandate and are one of the four pillars of the Convention, as well as a reduction, in real terms, of allocated resources for said activities.



Cuba continues to fulfil its financial obligations in line with the scale of contributions approved by the Organisation for the next year, as an expression of its permanent and unwavering support for the OPCW, in addition to fulfilling the obligations it undertook in line with the Convention.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the public website and external server.

Thank you.

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