



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AMBASSADE VAN DE REPUBLIEK DER FILIPIJNEN
THE HAGUE

No. LBC - 13 - 2021

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines to the OPCW presents its compliments to the Public Affairs Branch and the Policy-Making Organs (PMO) Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and has the honor to submit a copy of its National Statement (*attached*) to the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council (EC-96) to be held on 09-12 March 2021.

The Permanent Representation of the Republic of the Philippines to the OPCW avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Public Affairs Branch and the Policy-Making Organs (PMO) Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

The Hague, 01 March 2021



Public Affairs Branch (public.affairs@opcw.org)
Policy-Making Organs (PMO) Secretariat (national.statements@opcw.org)
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)
The Hague, the Netherlands

Encl: Copy of National Statement (1 page)

**STATEMENT
OF MS. LOLITA B. CAPCO,
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES TO
THE OPCW
AT THE 96th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
09-12 March 2021**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

I wish to take this opportunity to assure H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Philippine Delegation's full support for the successful completion of this Session of the Executive Council.

I also wish to express my Delegation's appreciation for the hard work of the Technical Secretariat under the able leadership of Director-General Fernando Arias amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic continues to present challenges in the work of the OPCW, the Technical Secretariat has commendably discharged its duties to the best of its abilities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Philippines remains committed to the disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Our country believes that only with the collective commitment of all countries—more so all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention—towards international peace and stability can we all pursue sustainable growth and development. As such, the crucial role that the OPCW plays in ensuring that chemicals are not used as weapons against anyone, anywhere, anytime and for any reason remains of paramount importance.

It is my distinct honor to inform the Council that the Philippines is now a State Party to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), after having deposited the instrument of ratification to the United Nations in New York on 18 February 2021. Along with the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention, and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the country's ratification of the TPNW is indeed a step in the right direction in joining the international community in creating an international norm prohibiting weapons of mass destruction.

The Agenda of the 96th Session of the Executive Council continues to be highly relevant to us all. There is no doubt that discussions will continue to be in-depth and extensive. I therefore urge all Members of this Council to continue the debates and discussions in a spirit of transparency, openness and cooperation.

May I request that this Statement be issued as an official document of the 96th Session of the Executive Council and be posted on the website.

Maraming salamat po.