



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CHILE

**STATEMENT BY MR JAIME MOSCOSO
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REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Representatives, and Delegates,

First of all, we would like to congratulate the Ambassador of Mexico, Mr José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo, on his election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of Conference of the States Parties to the OPCW. We express our full support for him as he carries out his duties. Likewise, we welcome the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the achievements noted in his report on the activities being carried out by the Organisation.

This Conference is taking place in exceptional conditions, a product of the restrictions imposed in an effort to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. We support the decision reached by the General Committee on organising this Conference in two parts and focusing on the most urgent substantive matters at this session.

We express our alignment with the statement by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, presented by the Republic of Azerbaijan. Having said so, we disassociate ourselves from paragraph 13 of said statement.

With regard to the chemical agenda of Syria, we have taken note of the exchanges and the proposals on making progress in the completion of Syria's initial declaration, and in doing so overcoming the gaps, discrepancies, and inconsistencies. We are concerned that there remain 19 outstanding issues concerning the initial declaration, and that the Technical Secretariat has concluded that it still cannot consider it precise or complete in line with the Convention.

We support the work of the Declaration Assessment Team and its efforts, in line with paragraph 3 of Executive Council decision EC-81/DEC.4 of the Executive Council, and paragraph 6 of decision EC-83/DEC.5, and we wish to see these meetings resume with that purpose in mind.

The Organisation must also have the requisite cooperation in order to continue implementing Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 and Executive Council decision EC-94/DEC.2. The Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), led by Ambassador Santiago Oñate, equally



deserves that support in the confidence to continue reporting on the origin of the use of chemical weapons in said country, in the cases in which the Mission has determined that chemical weapons were in fact used—which we vehemently condemn.

With regard to the report on the activities carried out in support of a request for technical assistance in Germany (document S/1906/2020, dated 6 October 2020), we are greatly concerned by the results of an analysis of the biomedical samples conducted by OPCW designated laboratories. These conclude that Mr Alexei Navalny was exposed to a toxic chemical—novichok—that acted as a cholinesterase inhibitor and is prohibited by the Convention.

With regard to this fact, my country condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of any chemical weapon. We call upon the Russian Federation to investigate and determine the circumstances of this incident. We hope that the request for the OPCW's cooperation by the Russian Federation this past 1 October will result in a technical visit soon.

We welcome the facilitators of the 2021 Programme and Budget, Mr Marcin Kawalowksy and Mr Matteo Fachinotti, for their efforts in and dedication to this matter. Chile supports the zero nominal growth principle of the budget, in light of the complex global financial and economic situation resulting from the pandemic.

While we do support the Draft Programme and Budget for 2021, we are concerned about the reduction in allocations for international cooperation, which is a fundamental aspect for capacity building in countries like ours, in accordance with the Convention. For this reason, we do hope that said reduction will only remain in place for 2021 and will not constitute a precedent for the future.

In this regard, we would like to recognise and appreciate that in spite of the current pandemic, the Technical Secretariat has adjusted to these new circumstances and developed a variety of activities via online modalities of cooperation.

We are also confident that the Associate Programme will resume in 2021, as it constitutes a particularly valuable tool in bringing together theory and practice, making it possible to include perspectives on development and investigation. This should have a positive impact on chemical security and the response capabilities of our countries. We also believe it is correct to take an approach that places value on having regional seminars on the secure management of chemical activities serve as a platform, and that the States taking part are able to access these as a means of sharing their experience and needs, in addition to serving as a practical guide for the chemical industry.

As we have said before, we hope that the future Centre for Chemistry and Technology will make it possible for our countries to make progress in knowledge and preparation, and that it will have all of the means needed to provide those services to all States Parties. We call upon the States that have not yet done so to make a voluntary contribution, as the complete financing for the Centre is currently just 200,000 euros short.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.