



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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

C-25/NAT.41  
30 November 2020  
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**SENEGAL**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOMAR GUEYE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Senegal aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China and of the African Group. Allow me to add the following remarks in a national capacity.

Mr Chairperson, I should like to very warmly congratulate you on your election to lead the Conference of the States Parties (“the Conference”).

I am convinced that your leadership and experience will help us achieve a fruitful outcome for our work. For this, I wish to assure you of the full cooperation of the Senegalese delegation.

I should also like to reiterate the support and trust of my delegation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Fernando Arias, whom we thank for the comprehensive and informative report on the activities of the Organisation.

I should also like to praise the unfailing availability of the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) and its greatly appreciated effectiveness in supporting the States Parties, even during these difficult times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The complete destruction of chemical weapons is a critical step in our common fight to achieve international peace and security. This is why Senegal joined the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and is committed to working to realise its objectives.

Senegal would like to reiterate here once again its unequivocal condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. Nothing can justify the use of these weapons, and those who use them must be brought to justice for their criminal acts.

The complete and verifiable destruction of all stockpiles, including old and abandoned chemical weapons, as well as the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons, is a top priority for Senegal.



My delegation also attaches the highest importance to the universality of the Convention, and solemnly reiterates its appeal to the States not yet Party to ratify or join it.

My country encourages the efforts that have been made to balance geographical and gender representation among Secretariat staff, with a view to allowing candidates from developing regions to access senior positions.

Senegal welcomes the progress made during the implementation of the previous four phases of the Africa Programme. The fifth phase of the Programme, launched in January 2020, should further consolidate these many achievements.

I should like to underscore the need to make this important Programme more sustainable by emphasising, among other things, laboratory capacity building, the establishment of centres of excellence, and the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry for the sole purpose of economic and technological development.

Similarly, while Senegal welcomes the voluntary contributions to the Programme, it believes that it would be wise to consider financing it within the regular budget of the OPCW.

At the time the Convention was being negotiated, the chemical weapons stockpiles possessed by governments for use by military forces were considered as the main threat to be countered.

While this threat still remains, though it has been reduced considerably, a new threat of the use of toxic materials by non-State actors for terrorist or criminal purposes has become more alarming.

In this connection, my delegation welcomes the remarkable work that is being undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, chaired by Ambassador Madonsela, the Permanent Representative of South Africa, and by the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, chaired by Ambassador Infante of Chile.

Senegal invites the States Parties to work in a spirit of consensus-building, transparent commitment, and close collaboration with a view to preserving the technical nature of the OPCW, in order to help strengthen international peace and security.

This spirit should guide the examination of important issues like the use of aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, or the nomination of candidates to the bodies of our Organisation and/or the technical positions within it.

Special attention must be paid to the issue of incapacitating gases used in law enforcement settings, in order to prevent such chemicals, which are considered lawful but have devastating effects on the central nervous system, from being used against demonstrators under the pretext of the need for public safety.

Before closing, I would like to express Senegal's support for the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021 and the related financial issues which will allow our Organisation to continue to appropriately carry out the missions that have been entrusted to it.

I would ask that this statement be published as an official document of this session of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.