



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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

C-25/NAT.49  
30 November 2020  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**EL SALVADOR**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Your Excellency, Mr Director-General,  
Your Excellency, Mr Chairperson,  
Your Excellencies, representative members and observers,  
Distinguished authorities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,  
Friends,

El Salvador would like to begin its statement by expressing its merited recognition of the notable work carried out by the previous Chairperson of the Conference, H.E. Mr Krassimir Kostov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, who performed his duties in a dedicated manner, ensuring continuity in addressing the delicate matters of the Organisation during the term of his chairmanship.

Likewise, my delegation would like to congratulate you, Mr Chairperson, on your election; your chairmanship is a symbol of the unity and commitment of the countries that make up the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States to the work of the Organisation. We put our full confidence in your leadership and reiterate the support of my delegation for your efforts to bring the work of this Conference to a successful close.

The world and the way in which we carry out our institutional activities have changed radically due to the effects of the pandemic declared by the World Health Organization at the start of this year. My delegation finds it timely to express its profound sentiment of grief and solidarity for the loss of life that has upset the daily lives of our societies, while also expressing its firm feeling of hope for all of the collective efforts that are being made amongst our countries to ensure a better world for present and future generations.

It is with this vision of a better future, to which my country aspires, that El Salvador reiterates its firm commitment to make real progress in general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and complete elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction.

Just as is stipulated by the Chemical Weapons Convention, my country reiterates its firm belief that the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer, and use of chemical weapons, and the destruction of these weapons, are also the necessary steps to ensure the free trade of chemicals, and to promote improved international cooperation and the exchange of scientific and technical information within the field of activities that are not prohibited by the Convention.



In line with the above, El Salvador recognises that the Organisation's 2021 Programme and Budget, in the form in which it was adopted and submitted by the Executive Council, is underpinned in the central objectives of the Organisation and which, in and of itself, provides the basis necessary to achieve mid- and long-term priorities of the OPCW, including verification of the elimination of chemical weapons.

Likewise, there is a great deal in common between the vision of my country and the outlook of the Director-General of the Organisation in terms of the importance of preserving the knowledge and experience gained on extraordinary missions related to the alleged use of chemical weapons, as well as inspector training programmes; these are objectives that look to strengthen the effectiveness of the work of the Secretariat in support of States Parties.

My delegation has closely, and with great interest, followed the efforts of the Director-General in promoting the project for the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, which, starting from 2022, will strive to become a centre of technical and scientific excellence that will provide leadership in certifying processes of investigation, analysis, training, and capacity building. We have no doubt that this initiative will become a flagship for the Organisation to the benefit of the international community as a whole, significantly improving the scientific and technological capabilities of the OPCW as it works to ensure a world free of chemical weapons.

My country has had the privilege of being an active participant over the past three years in positions of authority in a variety of fields and areas of work within the Organisation. We have carried out our work with the commitment to provide substantive support in promoting international peace and security, and we are convinced that dialogue and the permanent search for consensus are the best tools to find viable, lasting solutions to the substantial challenges that face the world with regard to the object and purpose of the Convention.

In line with the above, and as a position of principles and reiterated conviction, El Salvador will always condemn, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons or the use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone—a group or a country—anywhere, under any circumstances, and for any reason whatsoever. Any action taken to the contrary is reprehensible and a grave violation of the Convention and the norms of international law.

I kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and published on the Organisation's website and external server.

Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -