



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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**ECUADOR**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANDRÉS TERÁN PARRAL  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties,  
Director-General of the OPCW and members of the Technical Secretariat,  
Your Excellencies, and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of the Republic of Ecuador would like to begin its statement expressing our congratulations to H.E. José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo, Ambassador of Mexico, and our support for his leadership as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Likewise, we welcome H.E. Krassimir Kostov, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria, and his management as Chairperson of the previous session of the Conference. We also equally welcome the important work carried out by H.E. Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, in his capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Council.

In this same manner, this delegation would like to extend its greetings to H.E. Fernando Arias, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), as well as to its Technical Secretariat for its work and the efforts made to make this Conference happen in light of the current, extraordinary circumstances in which we are living as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ecuador condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons. We firmly maintain our conviction that the prohibition and complete elimination of this category of weapons of mass destruction are the main priority of this distinguished Organisation. This delegation would like to reiterate Ecuador's commitment to the work of the OPCW in terms of the implementation of its important mandate, and express our appreciation for the efforts and the work carried out in fulfilment thereof.

Ecuador firmly believes that there is no justification whatsoever for the use of weapons or toxic chemicals against any individual, anywhere, and under any circumstances. Regrettably, the threats that the international community now faces in relation to the use of chemical weapons are ever more evident and frequent.

In this new international context, Ecuador—in line with the values and principles that serve as guidelines for its international policy with regard to the Convention—believes it is fundamental



that we work together in order to establish mechanisms for preventing and responding to the potential re-emergence and use of chemical weapons.

In this regard, Ecuador has closely followed the situation surrounding Mr Alexei Navalny, whose poisoning was confirmed by OPCW laboratories, which determined the use of a nerve agent belonging to the novichok family of chemicals. To that effect, we see it as a positive note that the Russian Federation has requested assistance from the OPCW Technical Secretariat, and we hope this request will help clarify the facts.

Ecuador supports and welcomes the efforts that the Technical Secretariat is carrying out in the fields of cooperation set out in Articles VII, X, and XI. It is crucial that regional and global cooperation be strengthened, which will in turn make it possible to improve the capabilities of National Authorities. In this regard, Ecuador wishes to express its special appreciation for the support provided and the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat in connection with the successful regional table-top exercise in chemical emergency response for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, which took place in Quito from 17 to 21 February 2020. Likewise, this delegation expresses its appreciation for the Secretariat in connection with the organisation of the general training course on chemical weapons, which was scheduled to take place from 16 to 20 March 2020 in Ecuador. My delegation hopes that this course will be held when circumstances allow.

Ecuador expresses its strong willingness to work together with the OPCW on initiatives to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Likewise, we support the construction of the new facilities of the OPCW Laboratory, and the strengthening of the network of designated laboratories. We reiterate our aspiration to be able to have, in the near future, a laboratory in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

Ecuador expresses its deep concern surrounding the conclusions of the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), which proved and identified those responsible for the use of chemical weapons on three occasions in the Syrian Arab Republic.

With regard to the information provided by the Director-General on the destruction of chemical weapons at the global level, Ecuador has noted the progress made and believes that it will continue to be necessary to intensify cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to resolve outstanding issues and anticipate further action within the framework of the Convention.

Ecuador supports the allocation of sufficient economic resources for the implementation of the mandate assigned to the OPCW. Our country supports the adequate distribution and rationalisation of the use of available resources with improved efficacy. The position of Ecuador at this and other international organisations, has in recent years been based on zero nominal growth, while taking into account financial restrictions that some countries are dealing with. Nevertheless, Ecuador is in the position to support the Draft 2021 Budget, which provides for the use of the 2018 cash surplus to finance certain programmes. Ecuador understands that this decision is an exception, and that it does not represent an additional increase to the annual contributions of the States Parties.

Finally, Ecuador trusts that under your leadership, this Conference will achieve the goal of guiding the Organisation towards fulfilling its mandate and overcoming the challenges that it currently faces, with a view to ensuring that the Organisation is managed in a solid, capable manner in order to continue on its mission to support and preserve world peace. Ecuador supports strengthening multilateralism and believes that the mandate of specialised

international bodies such as the OPCW should be maintained within their nature, which is essentially technical, impartial, and independent.

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

Thank you.

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