



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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

C-25/NAT.64  
30 November 2020  
ENGLISH only

**ESWATINI**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SIBUSISIWE MNGOMEZULU  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI TO THE  
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES**

Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me from the inception to acknowledge the statement made by H.E. Mr Lawrence Lenayapa of the Republic of Kenya on behalf of the Africa Group, as well as the one made by H.E Mr Fikrat Akhundov of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, and herein associate our delegation fully.

It is with great honour that I take the floor on behalf of His Majesty King Mswati III, King and Ingwenyama of the Kingdom of Eswatini, Her Majesty the Queen Mother, and the Government and people of the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge your predecessor H.E. Mr Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria for his contribution to the Organisation during his tenure as Chairperson. Our delegation further wishes to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report.

These are unprecedented times, due to the challenges we all face brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic; in this regard, our delegation wishes to commend the OPCW for adapting to these challenges allowing for virtual participation, without which many delegations, including my own, would not be represented this year.

The Kingdom of Eswatini, like previous speakers, expresses its gratitude to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for their unwavering efforts in the implementation of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Africa Programme”). We welcome the report on its implementation contained in Note EC-95/DG.11 C-25/DG.9, dated 10 September 2020.

Our delegation appreciates the voluntary contributions made by States Parties, which plays a major role towards the success of the Africa Programme. However, we reiterate the need for predictability of funds to the Programme under the regular budget of the OPCW in order to ensure the sustainability of the Programme.



The Kingdom of Eswatini further commends the OPCW for its continued effort to promote gender equality and encourages the Organisation to intensify its efforts in promoting the role of women and girls in the peaceful use of chemistry.

The Kingdom of Eswatini wishes to emphasise the value of the transfer of technology, materials, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the field of chemistry, especially to developing countries such as my own. In this regard, my delegation advocates for the continued provision of appropriate, effective, and tailor-made technical assistance to States Parties in order to enhance their national capacity.

Our delegation reiterates and hereby reinforces our outright condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by any actor, and under any circumstances, as our delegation has consistently held in this and other fora over the past two decades. We furthermore condemn any attempt to polarise or politicise the OCPW, and seek to return consensus as our primary decision-making modality. Eswatini was one of the first States Parties to ratify the Treaty and remains committed to all the provisions of the Convention in its entirety without singling out any particular provision.

In conclusion, let me reiterate that the Kingdom of Eswatini as a State Party which is currently considered to be a low-risk territory, free of any chemical activities, is committed to continuing in its mission to retain this status quo in cooperation with the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Let me reassure you of our Kingdom's continued commitment towards the Convention.

It is our delegation's wish that this statement be issued as an official document and posted on the OPCW website.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---