



**OPCW**

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**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF THE COLLECTIVE SECURITY TREATY ORGANISATION  
BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour of delivering this statement on behalf of the members of the Collective Security Treaty Organisation (CSTO) that are States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”).

In these difficult times, when the efforts of the entire international community are focused on fighting the coronavirus pandemic, it is critical that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) demonstrate unity in the face of turbulent politics and the global economy, its commitment to the goals and purposes of the Convention, and readiness to do away with one of the most dangerous and deadly types of weapons of mass destruction.

In this regard, we would first like to thank the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”), Krassimir Kostov, the Ambassador of Bulgaria, and Executive Council Chairperson Agustín Vásquez Gómez, the Ambassador of El Salvador, for their efforts in managing the work over the intersessional period and the preparations for this meeting. We also avail ourselves of this opportunity to recognise the efforts of Director-General Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat in organising this event and taking preventative measures against COVID-19, reflecting that the safety of participating delegations takes absolute priority.

We congratulate Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico on his election to the post of the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and are confident that his professionalism and experience will help ensure the success of this event.

Recognising global problems related to the pandemic and its unprecedented negative effects, as well as significant multilateral efforts to prevent the further spread of the disease, we are still convinced of the need for universal accession to the Convention. In this regard, we value the ongoing work of the Technical Secretariat in this area. CSTO Member States attach great importance to the universal nature of the Convention, and we encourage States that are not yet Party to ratify the Convention without delay or accede to it.



We reiterate that the integrity of the OPCW and consensus-building in the decision-making process within the Organisation play a fundamental role in maintaining the stability of the global architecture of non-proliferation and disarmament. The apolitical, purely technical, and non-confrontational nature of its work is one of the major prerequisites for achieving the main aim of the Convention: to create a world free of chemical weapons. This is why we call upon Member States to refrain from any attempt to politicise the activities of the OPCW. Such actions can only deepen the rift between its Member States, instead of leading to a search for compromise to achieve the goals and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this context, we are concerned about the interpretation of the various provisions of the Convention in the interests of certain countries.

Attribution in the OPCW and granting the Technical Secretariat non-relevant authority to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons is unacceptable. We are confident that the United Nations Security Council has the exclusive authority, and in this regard we believe that the reshaping of the mandate of the OPCW is a mistake. We proceed from the fact that any additional obligations of Member States can only be introduced by amending the Convention accordingly.

We strongly condemn the threat of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, including with regard to civilian facilities, and we do not accept the use of any hazardous chemicals, including white phosphorus.

CSTO Member States are convinced that the effective work of the OPCW largely depends on the role of the Secretariat as an independent working body serving the interests of all its Member States. In order to strengthen its potential, both gender and geographical balance need to be improved through a transparent recruitment process. We call for making the corresponding efforts to achieving progress in this area.

Since its establishment, the CSTO has evolved into a multifunctional institution capable of successfully responding to challenges within its area of responsibility. Bearing in mind the experience gained, we call for closer cooperation between our organisations in order to strengthen international security.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, CSTO Member States encourage all States Parties to the Convention to work in a spirit of good faith towards the successful conclusion of the current session.

We request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference and published on the Organisation's external server and website.

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