



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**VENEZUELA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF  
VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE ADOPTION  
OF THE PROGRAMME AND BUDGET**

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation has voted no on the Draft OPCW Programme and Budget for the year 2021, based on the concerns that have been expressed earlier throughout the course of the discussions previously held on this matter. The foundation of this position is based on elements that are substantive in nature and that affect its presentation and subsequent adoption, which come into contradiction with the practices established at the heart of the Organisation for addressing such an important topic.

The lack of a consensus on the 2021 Programme and Budget is a reflection of the politicisation of the work of the OPCW resulting from the “attribution mechanism” that has been put into place, the decision on which was adopted based on an erroneous legal interpretation that has led to an amendment of the Convention via a decision taken at a special session of the Conference; an initiative for which the catalyst was pure political motivations, and the adoption of which came through a vote of less than half of the States Parties.

We note with concern the change in the language used to refer to the budgetary policy of zero nominal growth, observed by the Organisation to date, which Venezuela fully supports, bearing in mind today’s global economic realities, now compounded with the devastating effects generated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We regret the change in the good practice established at this Organisation over the years with regard to the procedure for the presentation and subsequent adoption of separate decisions on each one of the items in the OPCW Programme and Budget, and not as one single “omnibus” decision. We believe that for the sake of transparency and to facilitate timely decision making on this matter, issues of distinct nature should not be combined or summarised into only one “package”.

With regard to the effects on the sovereign right of the States Parties to freely decide on matters relating to the cash surplus from prior fiscal years, Venezuela expresses its wish that said funds be managed in strict compliance with the Organisation’s financial regulations, and in each case attributed to the fees and contributions of our country. For this reason, we do not agree that it be allocated for a use other than what is provided for in the OPCW Financial Regulations.



We note with concern the absence of any budgetary reallocation that would also incorporate a substantial increase for international cooperation, which contributes to economic and technological development for purposes not prohibited by the Convention, as well as the strengthening of the national capacities of the States Parties—all within the framework of the Convention and without sacrificing its essence or objectives.

Venezuela reiterates its willingness to honour its financial commitments to the OPCW. In this regard, it reiterates its request for assistance to the Director-General, the relevant departments of the Technical Secretariat, and the national entities of the Host Country to allow progress and facilitate the transfer of financial resources to the Organisation, as the regular process that would execute this has been impeded due to the coercive unilateral measures imposed against the country.

Finally, 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 made available on the Organisation's website.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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