

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

It is with great honour that I deliver this statement 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.

From the outset, allow me congratulate H.E Ambassador Bard Ivar Svendsen of the Kingdom of Norway on his nomination as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Conventions, in the same vein commend the work of his predecessor H. E. Mr. Jose Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo of the United Mexican States.

Allow me to extend our delegations appreciation and support to the Director General of the OPCW H.E. Fernando Arias and the entire team of the Technical Secretariat for their tireless effort in ensuring the proper monitoring of the mandate and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention, especially considering the special challenges brought about by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Our delegation associates itself fully with the statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Vusimuzi Madonsela Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa on behalf of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as that delivered by H.E. Mr. Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Chairperson

The Kingdom of Eswatini commends the Secretariat for its efforts towards assisting developing countries especially those in Africa, through the establishment of the Africa Programme. The Kingdom renews its support for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI and calls upon States Parties to give increased support to the economic and technological development of all States Parties.

Our Delegation further commends the Secretariat for the progress achieved under the phase four of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention and eagerly anticipates further progress under the fifth phase which commenced in January 2020. In this regard, we wish to encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue its efforts to prioritize its cooperation with Africa through the strengthening of relevant regional mechanisms and bodies.

Chairperson

The Kingdom of Eswatini once again reiterates its strong commitment to the OPCW and encourages the commitment of Member States and stakeholders in ensuring the return of our organisation to developing a common understanding and reaching full consensus in our endeavours towards achieving the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson, let me reassure you of the Kingdoms' continued commitment towards the Convention and hereby reinforce our outright condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by any actor under any circumstance, a position it has consistently held here, and in other forums, over the past two decades.

It is our delegation's wish that this National statement be published as an official document and be posted to the OPCW website. I thank you.