



*The Permanent Representation of the Italian Republic
to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*

ITALY

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ITALY TO THE OPCW
AT THE 26th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATE PARTIES**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Italy would first of all like to welcome and assure its best support to Ambassador Svendsen of Norway as Chairperson of the 26th edition of the Conference of States Parties (CSP) of OPCW.

At the same time, we would like to thank Ambassador Trejo of Mexico as Chairperson of the 25th edition of the CSP and Ambassador Bellouki of Morocco, Chairperson of the Executive Council, for the outstanding work they have done.

On this occasion we would like to thank OPCW Director General Fernando Arias for his strong leadership and look forward to continuing to work together for a further period of time.

Mr. Chairperson,

In these difficult times, the international community is engaged not only in curbing the persistence and growth of the Covid19 but also in many crises that undermine its stability and global security.

Among new and re-emerging threats, hovers the specter of chemical weapons. The certainties we had accumulated over the years have found a rude awakening in the events of the past years. The role of the OPCW has become central once again, to contain and control potential threats with tragic risks.

In this regard, it is necessary to close ranks, forget the echoes of other crises and work together with maximum harmony towards the common goal of a world free from the threat of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Italy believes that the utmost attention must once again be reserved for the Syrian issue.

The world cannot afford that still today, a curtain of doubts surrounds the Syrian activities related to the possession and use of chemical weapons.

We call upon Syria to give its fullest support to the organization by allowing careful monitoring and control by international authorities in accordance with the indication of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

We then expect the Syrian Arab Republic starts giving a green light to all DAT men, IIT activities and in general to comply with the Convention and the UN Resolution concerning it.

The same attention must be paid to the Navalny case. In this case it is the Russian Federation that is called to help this Organization in order to clear the field of doubts, risks and concerns that the situation inevitably suggests.

Mr. Chairperson,

Alongside so many serious concerns, however, we can also record some positive news that help us to look to the future with new hope.

Among these is the future growth of the OPCW's capacity thanks to the progress of the ChemTechCenter (CCT) project and also the prospect of an increase in the Organization's budget for the years 2022 and 2023.

Both initiatives are firmly and strongly supported by Italy, which encourages all States Parties to a full and timely support of these important projects.

It is precisely these signs of vitality of the OPCW that encourage the journey of our peoples towards a better world, where there is no room for chemical weapons. The world needs some important assurances and at least one of them can start to come through the prestigious forum of this Conference.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW Catalyst and public website.