



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Fifth Session
20 – 22 April 2021 (Part II)

C-25/NAT.104
20 April 2021
ENGLISH only

HOLY SEE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE HOLY SEE TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

When the Holy See ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), it reiterated that “dialogue and multilateral negotiation are essential values [in the disarmament field...]”. The Convention represents a significant tool for advancing multilateral efforts to eliminate weapons of mass destruction and is a concrete demonstration of what the international community is able to do when inspired by the common objective of promoting international peace and security through constructive dialogue. Nevertheless, challenges for its effective implementation remain.

The Holy See strongly condemns any use of chemical weapons, including in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and calls upon the international community to assume its role in holding accountable all those who are responsible for chemical weapons attacks, in conformity with international law, and calls on those involved to comply with international humanitarian law and their obligations under the Convention.

The Holy See hopes that investigations into such atrocious crimes will continue with the utmost objectivity and impartiality and with the collaboration of all the parties involved, ascertaining facts, and defining responsibilities.

I request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of States Parties and be published on the extranet and the public website.

--- 0 ---

