



OPCW

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ECUADOR

**STATEMENT BY FERNANDO ECHEVERRÍA DÁVILA
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Council,
Mr Director-General of the OPCW and members of the Technical Secretariat,
Your Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

The delegation of Ecuador wishes to begin this statement by expressing to H.E. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, its congratulations and full support in exercising his duties as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). The Ecuadorian delegation equally wishes to extend its congratulations and support to the recently elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Council. Within this context, Ecuador especially welcomes the ability to make this statement as a member and Vice-Chairperson of this important body of the Organisation after seven years of absence.

Likewise, this delegation wishes to welcome H.E. Fernando Arias, the Director-General of the OPCW, as well as the work of the Technical Secretariat over this period between the sessions of the Conference of the States Parties, as well as its ongoing preparations for this session of the Executive Council in view of the current extraordinary circumstances in which we are living due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Ecuador condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons. We firmly maintain our conviction that the prohibition and complete elimination of this category of weapon of mass destruction is the main priority of this distinguished Organisation. This delegation wishes to reiterate the commitment of Ecuador to the work of the OPCW in implementing its important mandate and expresses its gratitude for the efforts and work carried out towards achieving this.

Ecuador firmly believes that there is no justification whatsoever for the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals against any person, anywhere, or under any circumstance. Regrettably, the threats associated with the use of chemical weapons that face the international community are increasingly evident and frequent.



In this new international context, Ecuador—in line with the values and principles that guide its international policy under the Chemical Weapons Convention—believes it is fundamental to work together to put into place mechanisms to prevent and respond to the potential re-emergence and use of chemical weapons. In this regard, my country supports the technical work of the OPCW in taking on these important goals.

With regard to the information provided by the Director-General regarding the destruction of chemical weapons at a global level, Ecuador notes the progress that has been made and believes that it will continue to be necessary to intensify cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to resolve outstanding issues and anticipate further measures within the framework of the Convention.

In this regard, Ecuador reiterates its profound concern surrounding the findings in the reports of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Ecuador trusts that the Director-General and Technical Secretariat will continue to facilitate cooperation and efforts to achieve, together with the Syrian authorities, compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and other relevant decisions of the Conference and the Executive Council, as is the case in decision C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021 and entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic”.

Ecuador supports the allocation of sufficient economic resources for carrying out the mandate assigned to the OPCW. Our country is in favour of adequate distribution and rationalisation of the use of available resources with improved efficacy, as well as respect for gender parity and balanced geographical representation within the Technical Secretariat. Ecuador’s position at this and other international organisations has been based upon a zero nominal growth policy in recent years, bearing in mind the financial restrictions that some countries face.

Finally, Ecuador trusts that under your leadership, the Executive Council will meet the objective of guiding the Organisation as it fulfils its mandate, overcoming current challenges, and striving to ensure that it is managed in a solid, capable manner so that it may continue its mission of supporting and preserving global peace. Ecuador supports the strengthening of multilateralism and believes that the mandates of specialised international bodies, such as the OPCW, must be maintained within their eminently technical, impartial, and independent natures.

Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation’s extranet and website.

Thank you.

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