



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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

C-25/NAT.125  
20 April 2021  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SORAYA ÁLVAREZ NÚÑEZ  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
ON THE FOSTERING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES  
(AGENDA ITEM 18)**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Cuban delegation, to begin by congratulating H.E. José Antonio Zabalgotia, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OPCW, on his election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We wish him success in overseeing our work.

The delegation of Cuba is taking the floor to call the attention of the delegations to the national document submitted by Cuba under this agenda item, entitled “Difficulties and Obstacles Facing Cuba for the Full Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention”.

In this regard, I would like to touch on some of the elements contained in said document:

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has an important mandate in the promotion of the economic and technological progress of the States Parties, especially those that are less developed. Within this context, the Organisation and its States Parties have the important responsibility of guaranteeing the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

The unilateral prohibitions and restrictions stemming from the embargo against Cuba are clearly incompatible with the provisions of the Convention. It is the obligation of the States Parties to achieve its object and purpose, including the elimination of measures of this kind.

The embargo significantly limits and restricts the maintenance, sustainability, development, and modernisation of the chemical industrial sector in our country.



In the past year alone, this policy caused Cuba losses of approximately 5,570,300,000 dollars.

The document includes examples of losses resulting from the embargo policy in the field of chemistry in Cuba between April 2019 and March 2020.

It is neither conceivable nor acceptable, and it is in contradiction of international law, to limit, restrict, and prohibit, in many cases, the free exchange of chemicals, and scientific and technical equipment and information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes between Cuba and other States Parties, which constitutes, without exception, the right of all.

The Cuban delegation calls once again for States Parties to take the measures necessary to eliminate this policy in accordance with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of this Conference and published on the OPCW's external server and webpage.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---