



VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
IN RESPONSE TO THE JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATIONS OF
BRAZIL, CANADA, CHILE, COLOMBIA, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS,
PARAGUAY, AND PERU TO THE OPCW**

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela categorically rejects the affirmations contained in the joint statement of the countries of the self-appointed “Lima Group”, which are an attack on the sovereignty of a full Member of the OPCW and, therefore, must be condemned.

Such actions constitute a continuing attempt to use the Organisation in an effort to impose political interests that have nothing to do with the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention nor the mandate of the Organisation, and the States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.

The Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW once again wishes to emphasise the principle that States, in their international relations, must abstain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

The statement presented by an ever-decreasing number of States Parties constitutes an attack on multilateralism, which is the heart of international law. This dangerous precedent is also another example of politicisation and polarisation of this Organisation, which is absolutely unacceptable.

Venezuela, as a free and sovereign country, only responds to its people about its internal affairs. The legitimate Government of Venezuela is the one led by President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May 2018, with 68% of the votes casted in those elections, which were witnessed by 120 international observers.

Therefore, the only lawful and legitimate representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW is the one exercised by its Permanent Representative for several years.

The Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela request that this Statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council and be posted on both the external server and the public website of the Organisation.

--- 0 ---

