



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Eighth Session

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**ECUADOR**

**STATEMENT BY MR OSCAR IZQUIERDO ARBOLEDA  
CHARGÉ D’AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION  
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH 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 expressing to H.E. Mr Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco, our recognition of his excellent work as Chairperson of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

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

In this regard, Ecuador condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons. It firmly maintains its conviction regarding the prohibition and elimination of this entire category of weapon of mass destruction as the Organisation’s top priority. This delegation wishes to reiterate the commitment of Ecuador to the work of the OPCW in the implementation of its important mandate, and to express its gratitude for the efforts and work carried out towards the due fulfilment thereof.

Ecuador firmly believes that there is no justification whatsoever for the use of toxic chemical weapons or substances against anyone, anywhere, or under any circumstances. Regrettably, the threats facing the international community related to the use of chemical weapons are increasingly relevant.

In this new international context, Ecuador, in bringing together the values and principles that guide its international policy as it concerns the Convention, believes it is fundamental to work together to establish mechanisms for prevention and response to the unwanted re-emergence and use of chemical weapons. In this regard, my country supports the technical work of the OPCW in line with these important objectives.



With regard to the information provided by the Director-General regarding the destruction of chemical weapons at the global level, Ecuador notes the progress made and believes that it continues to be necessary to intensify cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to resolve outstanding issues and prevent non-compliance with the Convention.

In this regard, Ecuador reiterates its support for the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. Ecuador trusts that the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat will continue to facilitate their cooperation and efforts in order to—jointly with the Syrian authorities—ensure compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention and other relevant decisions of the Conference and the Executive Council.

Ecuador supports the allocation of sufficient economic resources for the fulfilment of the mandate assigned to the OPCW, in spite of the major economic implications caused by the pandemic that have driven us to address the zero nominal-growth policy. Our country advocates for the adequate distribution and rational use of available resources as efficiently as possible, as well as adherence to the mandate of the Convention on gender parity and balanced geographical distribution across the composition of the Technical Secretariat.

Finally, Ecuador trusts in the leadership of the Executive Council to meet its objective of guiding the Organisation towards the fulfilment of its mandate, while confronting current challenges and with a view to ensuring that the Organisation is managed in a solid, capable manner in order that it can continue on its mission of supporting and preserving world peace.

Ecuador supports the strengthening of multilateralism and believes that the mandate of specialised international bodies such as the OPCW must be maintained within their eminently technical, impartial, and independent nature.

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

Thank you.

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