



**OPCW**

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**ARGENTINA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Esteemed colleagues,

First and foremost, I would like to welcome you, Ambassador Vásquez Gómez, as well as the other members of the Bureau, and thank you for the preparatory work for this session, which will allow us to make progress in the days to come, with greater speed on the issues for which there will be a consensus among all the delegations.

Within the current health context, it is imperative that we adopt courses of action, such as the one laid out, that will allow us to streamline discussions and thus reduce the time needed to outline exposure to potential risks, both to the Secretariat staff and the representatives of the Member States.

I would also like to express my support and recognition of the work of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat, that, with dedication, professionalism, and independence, make it possible for the Organisation to carry out the functions assigned to them under the Convention, while underscoring the limitations imposed by the current health circumstances.

The Secretariat has continued to move forward with its inspections, to the extent to which the health situation has permitted, and Argentina has received two inspections in these circumstances.

In this regard, I would nevertheless like to mention the quantity of documents that are presented for consideration, and for these I would like us to please take note that they were not made available to the delegations sufficiently in advance.

The large quantity of documents that are only available in the English language is also a concern. We call upon the Secretariat to redouble its efforts to make documents available to delegations, sufficiently in advance, and in all official languages. My country is a staunch defender of multilingualism. We believe the fact that documents are not available in more languages than English is prejudicial against the delegations whose mother tongue is not said language.

As is known, my country is unequivocally committed to the policies of disarmament and non-proliferation, but also to the sovereign right to develop these technologies for peaceful purposes, which is continually does taking place as part of international commitments.



It is for this reason that we reiterate that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, or under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a flagrant violation of the international obligations set out in the Convention and of international law, and that all those responsible for such must be held accountable.

The possibility of the use of chemical weapons will only be eradicated when the complete elimination of chemical weapons has been verified. For this reason, it is also fundamental that all members of the international community join forces to achieve this goal and accede to the Convention.

We call upon all States to comply and continue to comply in strict accordance with the obligations of the Convention and the decisions of the Organisation.

In this regard, I am pleased to share with this Council the fact that my country has completed its internal process of legislative modifications necessary to incorporate decisions C-24/DEC.4 and C-24/DEC.5 by the Conference of the States Parties into its national legislation, thus establishing the technical modification of Schedule 1 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.

We know that given the conditions in place around the world due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many planned activities have been affected. Initiatives have been presented aimed at finding a way to anticipate this type of situation, and we will be discussing those in the days to come.

As stated at other opportunities, Argentina aspires to play a constructive role within the heart of this Organisation by proposing ways towards a more effective and efficient functioning of the Convention's implementation mechanisms. It is for this reason that I would like to end my statement by reiterating a call for all States Parties to the Convention to work together, building the consensus needed to move forward into a world free of chemical weapons in compliance with all the provisions of the Convention.

Thank you.

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