



OPCW

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

ALGERIA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(H)**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The Algerian delegation has closely followed the consultations on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for the period 2022–2023.

Nevertheless, it wishes to clarify the position it expressed during the vote, and emphasises its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and to its values and objectives, as well as its pledge to actively support the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

While we consider that, in this current and rather uncertain climate, it would be inconceivable to deprive the Organisation of its budget, which would allow it to fully carry out its missions, we regret all the same the absence of a consensus around the issue and the fact that the voting procedure had to be used to adopt the budget.

The Algerian delegation regrets the repeated use of voting, which is to the detriment of the consensus that has always typified our work and constitutes one of the valuable tools in our work within the Organisation.

Accordingly, the Algerian delegation’s abstention should be understood as a reaction to distance itself from what has characterised the work of the OPCW these past few years. We would like to go back to the approach that has always prevailed at the OPCW, maintaining the consensual nature of our decisions.

Our fear stems equally from our duty to guard ourselves against any attempt aimed at moving our Organisation away from its eminently technical nature.

My delegation continues to stress the importance that should be attached to funding the OPCW’s international cooperation and assistance activities, in particular its programme for Africa.



We welcome in this regard the inclusion in the budget decision, at the initiative of the African Group, of a paragraph calling upon the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) to work collectively to ensure the full and effective implementation of the international cooperation programmes, by considering the appropriate measures, including the retention of unspent funds for cooperation programmes in a special fund.

We thank all of the delegations for their support of this initiative. The Algerian delegation, which coordinated the African Group along these lines, reiterates its full willingness to contribute to any consultations and activities that will be undertaken around this subject.

In conclusion, the Algerian delegation remains steadfast in its position, which is consistent with the same guiding principle adopted during the previous sessions of the Organisation’s policy-making organs.

In summary, we consider that the OPCW has all of the means and tools to continue to tackle the diverse challenges to come, while continuing to give full effect to the various provisions of the Convention and to its technical mandate.

Finally, I wish to stress firmly that Algeria will continue to honour its commitments to the OPCW and, through its steps and actions, will translate this into support for the Secretariat in order that it fulfils its mandate.

I would ask that this statement be published on the external server and website of the Organisation as an official document of this session.

Thank you.

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