



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.27
29 November 2021
ENGLISH only

PHILIPPINES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSE EDUARDO MALAYA III
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Firstly, I wish to welcome H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

I also wish to extend my delegation’s support for Director-General Fernando Arias and the entire team of the Technical Secretariat for all their tireless effort in ensuring the proper monitoring of the mandate and objectives of the Convention, especially considering the special challenges brought about by the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with other disarmament and non-proliferation treaties that the country has signed, the Philippines believes that the Convention’s vital role in the creation of international norms prohibiting weapons of mass destruction is the only effective way to ensure international and regional peace and security and as such, is key to the country’s pursuit of growth and development.

The Philippines is keen to pursue initiatives that can assist the country in strengthening its capability in countering chemical weapons threats. In this regard, we would like to express our interest in participating in more capacity-building activities that aim to build chemical weapons attack-preparedness and designating an OPCW Laboratory in the Philippines.

In the same vein, the Philippines is keen on supporting an OPCW programme to strengthen cooperation with Southeast Asia, similar to the established Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa.

The Philippines is also committed to a zero-nominal growth approach not only in the OPCW, but also in other multilateral fora. While we understand the challenges brought about by rising inflation over the years that has rendered the activities of the Organisation increasingly at risk vis-à-vis the real costs of running the Organisation, I wish to emphasise that the Philippines has remained a conscientious Member State that has always tried to pay its fees on time.



I call on States Parties that have arrears in the payment of their fees to settle their obligations as soon as possible. It is in the best interest of all States Parties that the Organisation is fully funded to allow it to accomplish its mandated activities, especially in capacity building.

The Philippine continues to support the draft decision on the aerosolised use of central nervous system-acting chemicals (CNS-acting chemicals) for law enforcement purposes. Our country's support for the draft decision reflects the Philippine government's strong commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation in the world.

The Philippines does not possess, manufacture nor use CNS-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, and condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, anytime and for whatever reason, and calls on all other States Parties to also do so.

Mr Chairperson, the threat posed by chemical weapons on developing States like the Philippines and their people, where a substantial number of their citizens reside and work overseas, is real. Only when all States Parties remain firm in their commitment to prohibit chemical weapons in all its forms can the security of all be assured.

I request that this statement be made an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and be posted on the website.

Thank you.

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