



OPCW

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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HERNÁN SALINAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Representatives and delegates,

First of all, we wish to congratulate the Ambassador of Mexico, José Antonio Zabalgoitia Trejo, on his excellent work as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW. We express our most sincere wishes for the success of the Ambassador of Norway, Bård Ivar Svendsen, in his role as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Likewise, we welcome the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the achievements noted in his report on the activities carried out by the Organisation. We express the support of our country for his re-election as Director-General, which will make it possible to continue with the work that is currently under way towards achieving the goals planned at the start of his first term, and to finalise existing projects on time, including the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

With regard to the chemical dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, we are concerned that since the adoption of decision C-25/DEC.9 last April, by which the Conference decided to suspend some of the rights and privileges of said country in accordance with the Convention, difficulties have arisen for the deployment of OPCW officials to Damascus, which impedes the Technical Secretariat from maintaining a continuous presence in that city.

We recall the obligations of each State Party to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in line with paragraph 7, Article VII of the Convention. For this reason, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to fully cooperate with the Technical Secretariat by providing the relevant documents and information in order to update its initial declaration and correct the gaps and inconsistencies, including the 20 outstanding issues; the prompt issuance of visas to all OPCW personnel will lend flexibility and continuity to that process.

Finally, we hope that a meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Syrian Arab Republic takes place soon. We firmly believe that this high-level meeting will make it possible to reinvigorate the dialogue for both parties.



With regard to the draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes”, our country understands that this is a matter of high technical complexity and that the issue has led to a lengthy discussion among the States Parties.

As members of the Executive Council of this body, we vote in favour of its resolution and we will also vote in favour in the context of this Conference of the States Parties. Nevertheless, we continue to find it pertinent that the current draft decision requests that the Director-General task the Scientific Advisory Board to continue examining relevant scientific and technological advances related to central nervous system-acting chemicals and provide updates at the Conference, as necessary.

With regard to the poisoning of Mr Alexei Navalny with a toxic chemical in the novichok family, which has been proven by OPCW laboratories, Chile condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of any chemical weapon. We reiterate our urgent call to investigate the circumstances of this incident, identify those responsible, and hold them accountable under law.

We thank the facilitators of the Programme and Budget for 2022 – 2023, Mr Jerzy Gierasimiuk and Mr Matteo Fachinotti, for their efforts in and dedication to this issue. Chile supports the adjustment of the budget and values the efforts made to achieve a limited increase, which will provide, in our opinion, the stability needed for the work of the Organisation in the next two years. This will be an important collective effort, as Chile—just like many other countries—is going through a complex economic situation as a result of the pandemic.

Concerning geographical distribution across the staff of the OPCW, the Chemical Weapons Convention stipulates that “[d]ue regard shall be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible”. This issue is a priority for our country. The conditions allowing for professionals from all countries to have the possibility to be part of this Organisation should be put in place, and the imbalances resulting from years of inaction must be remediated. For this reason, we welcome the willingness of the Director-General to explore ways, incentives, and specific measures to boost the number of officials from developing countries, including GRULAC countries. Our country is ready to support and collaborate in this process.

Finally, we wish to thank the GRULAC countries for endorsing our candidacy to be a member of the Executive Council in the 2022 – 2024 period. You may rest assured that we will continue to work via dialogue and cooperation and in pursuit of the objectives set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.

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