



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Sixth Session  
9 – 12 March 2021

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**EL SALVADOR**

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

Mr Chairperson of the Executive Council,  
Director-General,  
Permanent Representatives,  
Members and observers of the Executive Council,

The delegation of El Salvador highly values, on this occasion, the measures adopted to preserve the health and safety of the participants in compliance with the norms and practices of the Organisation, as well as the directions put into place by the Dutch authorities due to the pandemic.

El Salvador reaffirms its intent to collaborate in the development of work over the course of this session in support of the Chairperson, the members of the Bureau, and the Technical Secretariat, in order to make certain that our work leads to a successful outcome. In this regard, we congratulate the Technical Secretariat, whose work and commitment to ensure the implementation of the Convention is worthy of our recognition.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has had a marked effect on the implementation of important activities within the OPCW. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to adapt to this new reality and to provide online training courses and seminars for National Authorities.

My country recognises the progress made concerning the recommendations of the External Auditor in areas such as financial administration, governance and internal control, the enterprise resource planning system, and the Centre for Chemistry and Technology project.

We recognise the efforts led by the Ambassadors of Australia and Uruguay in facilitating organisational governance and human resources. Likewise, we also underscore the importance of having in place a flexible institutional mechanism associated with personnel policy. In effect, it is of the utmost importance to integrate, based on merit, the qualified talent that comprises part of the OPCW's professional team, bearing in mind geographical diversity and with a focus on gender.

My delegation congratulates the Director-General on his decided commitment to the Centre for Chemistry and Technology project, which we have no doubt will become a centre of excellence in science and technology and provide certified leadership in the processes of investigation, analysis, training, and capacity building starting in 2022.



El Salvador adds its voice to the discussion on central nervous system-acting chemicals, and trusts that the States Parties, in a collective and consensus-based manner, will build common ground, which will make it possible to take a comprehensive approach to this issue, underpinned by the technical considerations of the National Authorities.

El Salvador will continue to support the measures aimed at chemical disarmament set out in the Convention, while also continuing to condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, and under any circumstance.

My delegation recognises the importance of the initiative that has been put forward by the delegation of Germany, which aims to establish an effective mechanism that would make it possible to convene sessions of the Executive Council in emergency circumstances. El Salvador, in carrying out the functions as Chairperson, has spoken in favour of this type of initiative in light of the current pandemic and eventual future circumstances.

Finally, El Salvador assigns high importance to strengthening the institutionalism of the OPCW in terms of the full implementation of the Convention, while pursuing dialogue and consensus among the States Parties.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council and published on the Organisation's website and extranet.

Thank you.

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