



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**PERU**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARISOL AGÜERO COLUNGA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson, Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi,

I would like to begin my statement by welcoming your appointment as Chairperson of the OPCW Executive Council. I will also take this opportunity to express my delegation's recognition of the work carried out by your illustrious predecessor in this post, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki. I express Peru's strong willingness to collaborate with you towards the success of the work of this important decision-making body.

My delegation values the clear and complete report presented by the Director-General at this session, and reaffirms its full commitment to the implementation of the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and, by extension, the work of this Organisation.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, with the exception of paragraph 15 thereof, which refers to Syria's cooperation with the OPCW.

Peru reiterates its strong support for the work carried out by the Technical Secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic, especially the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). Likewise, it expresses its profound concern regarding the conclusions of the latest reports by the FFM, dated 24 January 2022 (regarding the incident in Marea on 1 and 3 September 2015) and 31 January 2022 (regarding the incident in Kafr Zeita on 1 October 2016) which confirm the existence of reasonable grounds to believe that chemicals were used as weapons.

In this regard, Peru will continue to reiterate as many times as is necessary its call for the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate effectively with the OPCW in a way that translates into concrete results in the short term.

Likewise, Peru recognises the efforts made in the facilitation on organisational governance and welcomes the appointment of Ambassador Elizabeth Ward, Permanent Representative of Panama, as co-facilitator. Peru has actively participated in the consultations on the draft decision on amendments to the OPCW recruitment policy and has expressed its position on the importance of working in parallel to adopt concrete measures to effectively implement the principle of geographical distribution among the personnel of the Technical Secretariat set out in paragraph 44 of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention towards overcoming the current inequality.



Peru strongly believes that both of these issues are intrinsically intertwined and, for this reason, should be addressed in parallel. My delegation will continue to provide substantial support in this forum towards achieving a consensus-supported proposal that will take into consideration the concerns of all the regional groups.

The National Authorities are key players in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and, as such, it is necessary to listen carefully to their concerns. The virtual training courses are essential for our National Authorities to be able to continue training for the various tasks that the Convention periodically demands from the States Parties. For this reason, we request that the Technical Secretariat increase its efforts so that the training courses provided in other languages will have simultaneous interpretation into Spanish for the GRULAC States Parties.

Finally, we welcome the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group on Preparations for the Fifth Review Conference. I will take this opportunity to note that Peru will be an active participant in the discussions that will take place within said Group.

I kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

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