



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.78
1 December 2021
ARABIC and ENGLISH only

STATE OF PALESTINE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE DRAFT DECISION OF THE UNITED STATES
OF AMERICA ENTITLED “UNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE AEROSOLISED
USE OF CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM-ACTING CHEMICALS
FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PURPOSES”**

My country’s delegation has abstained from voting, as a matter of principle and not as an objection to the efforts to prohibit the aerosolised use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, i.e., the principle of commitment to the procedural and substantive integrity of the rules of procedure.

The State of Palestine has constantly supported the full implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, including strict adherence to all rules of procedure pertaining to the amendment and reinterpretation of the Convention, which should be done in full compliance with the procedures for amending the Convention.

The decision which has just been put to vote did not reflect any common understanding among States Parties regarding central nervous system-acting chemicals, nor did it determine the nature and impact of or define central nervous system-acting chemicals. Since the States Parties to the Convention did not agree on the outcomes, those chemicals were not included in the Convention or its Annex.

My country’s delegation calls upon all States Parties to revert to consensus in decision making, allowing all parties to express their views on the issues raised, in order to preserve the spirit of constructive cooperation between all international parties.

We request that this statement be considered an official document of the Conference and posted on the Organisation’s public website and Catalyst.

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