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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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE STATES PARTIES**

El Salvador congratulates His Excellency, Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela of South Africa, on his election to lead the work of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

My country also recognises the work carried out by Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway during his Chairmanship of the previous session.

El Salvador highly values the commitment of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and that of the Technical Secretariat, to the implementation of the Convention, as well as their dedication to strengthening this Organisation.

El Salvador is especially appreciative of the opportunity provided by the workshop on best practices in developing a legislative framework and regulations for chemical security. This occasion allowed for an interesting exchange of experiences in regulatory and legislative frameworks among GRULAC countries. We were also pleased to welcome a visit from the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono, who was able to interact directly with the National Authority, parliamentarians, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs regarding the adoption of national legislation at the Legislative Assembly of El Salvador.

At this time, when tension has regrettably intensified among certain States Parties, it stands to recall the importance of ensuring the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. Now more than ever, we must strengthen technological knowledge and economic conditions in developing States Parties through the cooperation and assistance that the OPCW provides.

El Salvador once again expresses its support for the universality of the Convention, and for strengthening the Organisation's verification capabilities.

While my country does not develop, produce, stockpile, or use chemical weapons, it remains conscious of the obligation to work towards their complete elimination in an effort to ensure peace and security.

We know that the undue use of weapons and toxic chemicals violates the provisions of the Convention and international law, and entails responsibility.



El Salvador is greatly concerned by the growing undue use of chemicals by illicit and organised groups. On this matter, we would like to commend the contribution that the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism is making ahead of the Fifth Review Conference. It is critical to prevent fatalities, which brings my country to call upon the OPCW, through the Technical Secretariat, to strengthen the capabilities of developing countries in terms of risk assessment, research, and the dissemination of good practices.

We also support strengthening knowledge among developing countries in the fields of science and technology to ensure that in future, the actors involved will be better prepared.

In the spirit of Article XI, we feel the need to reiterate the importance of international cooperation through the transborder exchange of technical and scientific information, as well as the provision of equipment for peaceful purposes. It is crucial for international cooperation and assistance to have a balanced budget in order to benefit developing countries.

The OPCW needs to strengthen its strategy for the future, bearing in mind the new geopolitical reality. For this reason, an action plan is becoming an important element. With regard to Article XI, it addresses essential elements of the Convention that aimed at the economic and technological development of the States Parties.

We have contributed to the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (the ChemTech Centre), which will soon be inaugurated, thus boosting the actual capacity of the OPCW Laboratory. This is a laudable initiative of the Director-General that will mark the future of the Organisation and strengthen the States Parties. That notwithstanding, we would like to know more details about the way in which the Centre will be managed and how the States Parties that wish to do so will be able to participate, in terms of experience and national capacity, and how they may contribute to the operation, transparency, and sustainability of its programmes. El Salvador speaks out strongly on the subject of geographic representation and gender parity across the different levels of the Organisation, including at the future ChemTech Centre.

Along these lines, El Salvador is a co-sponsor of the joint statement on gender for the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference.

My delegation would recall the support previously provided for the decision on the use of aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals (C-26/DEC.10).

We find it necessary to continue a direct dialogue between the OPCW and the Syrian authorities.

We reiterate the commitment of El Salvador to contribute in a positive way towards the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the Organisation's website and external server.