



**OPCW**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**PANAMA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ELIZABETH WARD NEIMAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA TO  
THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Both on behalf of the Republic of Panama and in my own personal capacity, I wish to extend my greetings to the Chairperson, the Director-General, the members of the Bureau, and the delegations of the States Parties present here today.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Vusimuzi Madonsela on his election as Chairperson. I am confident that his skills will shine in this important position.

The delegation of Panama places itself at your disposal during your term as Chairperson. You will have our support as we work through the agenda, as well as Panama's strong commitment to work towards the desired outcome.

We would also underscore the work of H.E. Bård Ivar Svendsen now that his term has come to an end. We commend his dedication and professionalism in undertaking his commitment as Chairperson.

I would also avail myself of this opportunity to highlight the work of H.E. Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW who, together with this team, has demonstrated a strong commitment and willingness to tackle a variety of issues for the benefit of the smooth operation of this Organisation.

The year 2022 has been full of challenges due to the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which we have not yet overcome, and which we know will continue in the years to come.

We believe that the work carried out this year is of the utmost importance, and we are conscious of the budgetary needs that have been modified to ensure that the Organisation continues to operate smoothly. We do request that you remain mindful of the Organisation's expenses so that future budgets will be aligned with the economic reality in which we live due to the consequences stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the challenges that we face as countries with recovering economies

In reaffirming our commitment to the Convention's mandates, in early 2022 Panama made a voluntary contribution to the project to modernise the OPCW Laboratory and transform it into the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology. This is but one demonstration of the trust that we place in the Organisation.



Likewise, in April this year, the Government of Panama, through its National Authority and as the result of collaborative work with the Organisation, held the first basic course on assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for nursing personnel. This course was organised as part of regional capacity-building efforts.

The delegation of Panama is aware of the efforts being made within the Organisation with regard to gender equity. I would avail myself of this opportunity to call for the Organisation and the States Parties to work together to achieve more balanced geographical representation.

We deeply regret the events in Ukraine, and we call for respect for the sovereignty, political independence, and territorial integrity of Ukraine in line with international law. We express our solidarity with the people of Ukraine and ask the Organisation to closely monitor this situation in order to prevent the risk of the use of chemicals.

We reiterate the Republic of Panama's commitment to and trust in the mandate of the Chemical Weapons Convention with the end goal of achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

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

Thank you.

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