



**OPCW**

**Review Conference**

Fifth Session  
15 – 19 May 2023

RC-5/NAT.45  
19 May 2023  
ENGLISH only

**ALGERIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SALIMA ABDELHAK  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF  
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,

Let me thank H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OPCW for his chairmanship of the Fifth Review Conference. It was not the easiest one. You still proposed three sittings to manage the limited time of the Conference to ease our deliberation and reach a consensual document.

Since the beginning you have shown a sense of responsibility by wisely advocating for consensus, refusing to divide the international community on an issue of international peace and security, and rejecting a document with no value. My gratitude goes to the friends of the Chairperson, the Ambassadors of New Zealand, Estonia, Ecuador, and Cyprus for helping in the endeavour with the negotiations. It also goes to the Ambassador of Mexico, who tried to innovate in the Committee of the Whole to bring closer the positions of States Parties.

We do not have an outcome today. We regrettably reproduced the scenario of the last session and have ended up with no orientation for 10 years now. My delegation would have liked to avoid this scenario but now we hope this situation will not hamper the significant CWC success and achievements of more than 25 years.

Delegations including the Algerian one actively contributed a year along in the Working Group under the commendable leadership of H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing, and in other formats in order to review and come up with innovative approaches for the future of the operation of our Convention. The flexibility shown while negotiating the text of the president was not enough. Instead of posing existential questions on our engagement towards CWC, I would rather prefer to think we could decide on a consensus document if we had a longer Conference.

Having said that, my delegation is of the view that the evaluation and expectations of the CWC converged in the majority of aspects. The assessment was largely positive and the expectations challenging. The Algerian delegation is looking forward to further discussing these matters in the future sessions of the OPCW's policy-making organs.

We do not have an outcome but our commitment and objective remain the same to uphold the implementation of the Convention provision and to free our world from chemical weapons.



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We request this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and be posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

Thank you.

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