



**National Statement by H.E. Ambassador
Fernando Simas Magalhães Permanent
Representative of The Federative Republic of
Brazil to the OPCW at the 109th Session of the
Executive Council**

The Hague, 8-11 July 2025

Mister Chairperson,

Brazil expresses its gratitude for the commendable work done by Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, of Ecuador, during his time as chair of the Executive Council and presents its full support for Ambassador Thomas Schieb, of Germany, who now takes up the important role of guiding the governing body of the OPCW through the months to come. We extend our compliments to Director General Fernando Arias, to Deputy Director General Odette Melono and to the Technical Secretariat for their tireless efforts to the benefit of our organization and its contribution to international security. We commend DG Arias for the signature of a cooperation MoU with the community of portuguese speaking nations.

At the outset, on a positive note, I would like to address the consistent signs of cooperation of the Syrian transitional government with the OPCW, illustrated in the briefing of the Secretariat last May. Only those who work on the ground can fully grasp how difficult the conditions really are. Although concerned with the stability of the current political context in Syria, Brazil stands ready to support the work of this Organization, in order to bring the Syrian chemical dossier to a close. Brazil reaffirms its vehement condemnation of the use or threat of use of toxic

chemicals as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances.

In this respect, we also reiterate the need for technical rigor, impartiality and, above all, transparency of the Secretariat and Director General to keep all members of the OPCW equally informed about plans on how to move forward on the Syrian file, including new internal arrangements of the Technical Secretariat, such as the establishment of an “office for special missions”. In this regard, we would like to make a note of caution and request more information, including budgetary implications, to better understand this issue. We believe that some of the inspectorate functions already address such missions. It is understood that all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention share the commitment to strengthen the disarmament and non-proliferation multilateral regime and support the authority of the DG in conducting the work of the Organization.

In the spirit of the Convention, one can never stress enough the importance of promoting the right of peaceful uses of chemistry, including the exchange of scientific and technical information, chemicals and equipment for purposes not prohibited by the CWC, as a pillar in the development of our economies. This knowledge plays a fundamental role in fostering the preparedness of States Parties to respond to chemical incidents and to counter the possible reemergence and proliferation of chemical weapons.

We duly recognize the critical relevance of the OPCW in sharing ideas regarding improvements of inspection methodologies of chemical plant sites and developing activities and programs related to capacity building. We hope that Latin America and the Caribbean too will be contemplated with a CHEMEX soon.

Diversity and inclusion are also key for assessing current challenges such as emerging technologies. Hence, Brazil congratulates and thanks China for organizing the workshop "AI for Good and for All", last June, of which we participated. This broad approach of promoting the understanding of the risks and opportunities of AI is very much in line with the Brazilian Plan of Artificial Intelligence and we look forward to more projects and programs aiming at making related AI knowledge and best practices widely accessible. In the meantime, Brazil provides its own contribution by partnering with the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, through industry support for OPCW Associate Program 2025. We furthermore provide mentorship to Mozambique, Colombia and Guinea-Bissau, countries that honor us with the trust they have shown in our National Authority.

Mister Chairperson,

Speaking of fostering trust and collaboration in the OPCW, these are precisely the main values we must invest in when choosing the new Director General of our Organization. Trust in his or her transparency and openness for dialogue; trust in his or her technical competence to fully understand the complexity of our mission and ability to set the right priorities; and trust in his or her independence and impartiality in decision-making processes and predominant technical assessment of challenges and opportunities. In the current context of increasing politicization in our midst, which has led to particular interpretations, to say the least, of provisions of the Convention, for instance paragraph 23 of Article VIII, as well as rules of procedure such as those governing the election of members for the Executive Council, we must together make the right choice in the process of selecting the person to be at the helm of the OPCW.

As we commend the Secretariat for its efforts in preserving a balance between its necessity to retain acquired expertise and its undertaking to let in and train new personnel, respecting geographic representation and gender equity within the Organization, we need to nevertheless share our concern with the most recent tenure policy decision this Executive Council has been led to make. We will continue to maintain that the OPCW is a non-career organization. We hope to count on the cooperation of all States Parties to advance the Action Plan on Geographical Representation, including ways of ensuring knowledge transfer from experienced to new staff members, so we do not find ourselves in the same predicament further down the road.

Finally, in light of heightened tensions in the middle east, allow me to conclude by underlining the need to deploy our strongest efforts towards the achievement of the goal of an universally accepted convention, an important step in the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the middle east.

Thank you.