

30th Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

General statement by the Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil,

H.E. Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães

Brazil wishes to express its appreciation for the work of Ambassador Almir Sahovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in chairing the 29th Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW. We also extend our support to Ambassador Agustin Vasquez Gomez as he receives the important responsibility of presiding over the 30th Conference.

I take this opportunity to also greet the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono. Since this is the last Conference they participate in their respective capacities, I would like to wish them all the best going forward. We would like to express our gratitude and recognition to the staff of the Technical Secretariat as well.

The 30th Conference of the Parties takes place at a challenging moment, where the global regimes that have ensured some level of stability for the past years face unprecedented threats. The OPCW is one of the regimes with the most successful track records, as it fulfilled a significant part of its mandate. Few other international organizations can boast such strong credentials.

Yet let us not forget that fulfilment of our mandate requires even more attention to the fundamentals that have so far driven the work of the OPCW. These include safeguarding the technical nature and independence of its work, embracing good governance practices as well as the constant searching for consensus.

Last October the Executive Council agreed to recommend the appointment of Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter as the next Director-General of the OPCW. Brazil warmly congratulates Ambassador Dallafior Matter on this achievement. We stand ready to contribute to enable the next DG to lead the Organization with independence, technical rigor, transparency, and impartiality - values that remain essential to advancing the elimination of chemical weapons. Brazil is also pleased that, for the first time, the OPCW will be led by a woman, which constitutes another ground-breaking contribution by the Organization.

At the same time, we believe diversity must extend beyond gender. A measure of the legitimacy of the OPCW is the composition of its governing bodies. Brazil continues to advocate for broader and duly balanced regional representation, particularly from countries of the Global South, across all levels of the OPCW, to ensure that its work benefits from the perspectives and experiences of all regions.

We are also of the view that the rules governing the composition of the Executive Council were drafted in such a way as to duly consider the significance of the national chemical industries in each region. As we decide on the seats up for election in the Executive Council, we urge all States Parties to bear in mind this primary objective of paragraph 23 of article VIII of the Convention.

Brazil also takes good note of the 2026-2027 budget which is now being submitted to the Conference. We are pleased to see it has been possible to agree on an outcome that preserves the principle of zero nominal growth for 2026 while accommodating the additional technical work required by the Syria file. Brazil hopes this principle will guide the entire biennium. As a member with no arrears, and supportive of matching ambitions and means, we commend all delegations for their constructive spirit and for achieving a balanced, responsible solution that aligns the Organization's priorities with available resources.

Brazil welcomes the continued cooperation of the Syrian authorities with the OPCW. We acknowledge we have a window of opportunity that may usher in meaningful progress in the elimination of chemical weapons.

While we fully support the efforts to bring the Syrian file to a close, Brazil understands that we should proceed with sincere commitment to consensus-based decision-making and unequivocal focus on the technical nature of the work of the OPCW.

From our perspective, the decision on "Expedited On-Site Destruction in Syria" could have benefited from a more inclusive, technical and transparent decision-making process. Although this decision was adopted without a vote, this fact did not mean it was a genuine expression of consensus. Instead, it merely indicated a collective choice not to oppose it. But the process leading to its adoption revealed governance challenges that continue to affect the OPCW's work. We hope to see them addressed going forward.

Brazil is fully committed to advancing scientific cooperation and knowledge-sharing in the framework of the OPCW, in support of the

Chemical Weapons Convention. Brazil has actively contributed to the OPCW's efforts in this field by sponsoring participants in the Associate Programme, hosting courses and seminars, and engaging in the Mentorship and Partnership Programme with countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. For 2026, we are organizing activities under the Mentorship Partnership Programme in Colombia and Guinea Bissau. We are also offering next year a Cycle on Assistance and Protection for our partners in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, in Rio de Janeiro.

A key component of this engagement is Brazil's Chemical Analysis Laboratory (LAQ) at the Technological Centre of the Brazilian Army (CTEx), the only OPCW-designated laboratory in Latin America and the Caribbean, and one of only two in the Southern Hemisphere. The LAQ performs off-site analyses of environmental samples collected during OPCW missions and has achieved notable milestones, including evaluating the 56th official proficiency test and participating in the first biotoxins trial proficiency test. The LAQ now seeks to assist other regional laboratories in achieving OPCW designation. Building capacity also means expanding the reach and acceptance of the Convention. In this sense we welcome the organization of a CHEMEX in the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2026.

We look forward to continue engaging constructively to the advancement of the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Thank you!