



**STATEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAMAICA
TO THE 30TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**HER EXCELLENCY MRS. DIEDRE MILLS
AMBASSADOR OF JAMAICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM**

AGENDA ITEM 8: GENERAL DEBATE

THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

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Mr. Chairperson,

Jamaica is pleased to be participating in this milestone 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention. My delegation congratulates His Excellency, Ambassador Mr Augustin Vasquez Gomez of the Republic of El Salvador, on his appointment as Chairperson of this session and assures him of my delegation's support throughout the Conference.

We also thank Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairperson of the 29th Conference of States Parties, for his work over the past year.

Let me begin by thanking delegations for their invaluable support towards Jamaica's relief and recovery efforts after the passage of Hurricane Melissa last month. We are grateful for your demonstration of solidarity and remain committed to building back stronger and better than before.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a supporter of global disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, Jamaica attaches significant importance to the role of the OPCW in addressing the use, threats of use and re-emergence of chemical weapons, as well as in promoting the peaceful use of chemistry for national development goals. For this reason, we encourage States Parties to comply with all their obligations under the Convention and thank the Technical Secretariat for its efforts to support the implementation of the Convention in an effective, non-discriminatory manner.

We are equally committed to the universalisation of the Convention and so use this opportunity to encourage Non-States Parties to become members to advance the work of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

Jamaica welcomes the adoption by consensus of the 2026-2027 Draft Biennium Programme and Budget. We are especially pleased that it is a zero nominal budget and congratulate Mexico and Poland, the co-facilitators, for so ably leading the discussions.

Jamaica also notes the publication of the Medium Term Plan (MTP) of the OPCW (2025-2028), which is to guide the implementation of the Budget, and regard as important the efforts to ensure:

- a results based approach to capacity building in alignment with each country's needs;
- a geographically diverse and gender-balanced staff complement; and
- more engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including other international organisations focussed on peace and security, international and regional professional chemical organisations, civil society and academia.

Jamaica looks forward to the current budget being adopted by the Conference.

Mr. Chairperson,

A key aspect of the OPCW's work is promoting international cooperation and capacity building among States Parties. Against this background, we acknowledge and thank the Technical Secretariat for the work done within GRULAC through the training opportunities provided during 2025. They are important given the focus on critical issues such as resolving transfer discrepancies,

assistance and protection against chemical warfare agents and toxic chemicals and emergency response.

Jamaica welcomes the announcement of Chemex GRULAC for 2026, and thank member states that have contributed to make the event possible. We look forward to participating and hope the seminar will be conducted in a manner that enables the productive engagement of delegations from the Caribbean sub-region.

Mr. Chairperson,

In an effort to increase awareness about the work of the OPCW, my delegation was pleased to have partnered with the Technical Secretariat earlier this February to host a virtual seminar for Chemistry Students at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus in Jamaica. It allowed for the sharing of information about the work of the OPCW and sparked interest among students about career pathways in Chemistry. We would encourage more engagements of this nature to advance the desired geographical balance in the Technical Secretariat.

Mr. Chairperson,

I close by thanking Director General Arias for the work done throughout his tenure and for the efforts to ensure that the Organisation remains current, including with respect to advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence and the impact on the work of the OPCW. We also appreciate the effort made by the Director General and his team to conduct in-person briefing sessions in Brussels for the Permanent Representations based in the city, and hope that this will continue.

We welcome the endorsement of the Executive Council of a new Director General, Ms Sabrina Dallafior of Switzerland and look forward to working with her.

I thank you.