



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA  
EN EL REINO DE LOS PAÍSES BAJOS

**INTERVENTION BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ARNOLDO BRENES CASTRO,  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO THE  
OPCW, AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES.**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

1. The remarkable efforts and achievements of the Organization to date are undeniable. In 2013, it was honoured with the Nobel Peace Prize for its tireless work towards the elimination of chemical weapons; and in 2023, hoping to be closer to a world permanently free of chemical weapons, we celebrated the destruction of all declared stockpiles.
2. However, after several confirmations by the Secretariat, we have observed riot control agents and other chemical substances being present on the battlefield in Ukraine. The use of chemical weapons by non-state actors has also been confirmed, and we have witnessed reports of the presence of chemical agents in other parts of the world.
3. In this context, we call upon all State Parties not to backtrack on the progress achieved. Costa Rica underscores the pivotal role and tireless efforts of the Secretariat. Its professionalism unquestionably stands out and serves as the cornerstone for the effective implementation of the Convention. To complement these efforts, the universalization of the Convention remains essential, and it is imperative that States fulfil their international obligations, reaffirm their commitment, and redouble their efforts to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the Convention.
4. My delegation also highlights the undeniable role that civil society—including the scientific community and the chemical industry—plays in advancing the Organization's objectives. Their contributions can provide valuable support in addressing novel challenges, such as those related to emerging technologies and artificial intelligence, adding significant value to the Secretariat's initiatives. These initiatives include the integration of emerging technologies as an agenda item in all Executive Council sessions; the introduction of topics such as the threat posed by the connection of drones, chemical substances and non-state



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actors in the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism; and the establishment of Temporary Working Groups of the Scientific Advisory Board on Artificial Intelligence and Chemical Forensics. Strategies to enhance engagement with civil society and to promote its leadership in the shared goal of achieving a world free of chemical weapons will always benefit the Organization and its States Parties. With this in mind, Costa Rica has been honoured to co-sponsor the side event Circle of Peace: Youth Dialogue on Disarmament and Responsible Science.

5. Having adequate resources is key to maintaining the Organization's optimal performance, and for this reason we support the approval of the Draft Programme and Budget for the 2026–2027 period. We believe that the Organization's needs have been addressed while affecting as little as possible the impact on the budgetary constraints of the Members. Costa Rica commends the excellent work of the Secretariat, in collaboration with the facilitation led by Mexico and Poland, in preparing and discussing the draft budget. In this regard, the willingness and active participation of States throughout the process, which enabled the conclusion of an acceptable proposal, also deserve recognition. My delegation trusts that the Secretariat will continue to carry out its tasks effectively.
6. Furthermore, Costa Rica appreciates and recognizes the value of voluntary contributions in strengthening the Organization's performance, such as the support provided by Canada, Spain, and the European Union for the advancement of CHEMEX CRULAC, which will be held in the Dominican Republic. Likewise, Costa Rica is mindful of the limitations and challenges that must be addressed in implementing the chemical weapons destruction program in Syria and therefore expresses its appreciation to the States that support the program through voluntary contributions.
7. We acknowledge the progress of the Syrian program during this year and commend the efforts made, while encouraging both the Secretariat, through the Office of the Special Missions, and the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue their work and close collaboration. In this regard, we wish to underscore the important role that the State of Qatar has played in the accomplishments attained this year.



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8. My delegation also highlights the active participation of Member States during the various discussions of the Open-Ended Working Group on the current implementation of the articles governing the elections of Executive Council members. Costa Rica considers that the process, as currently implemented, does not constitute an irregular procedure and, while we regret that the discussions did not result in a consensual position, we acknowledge the interest and the diverse contributions provided throughout the deliberations. Costa Rica recognizes the work of Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina, both in his leadership of these discussions and, above all, in his role as Chair of the Twenty-Ninth Conference of the States Parties.
9. Costa Rica further extends its congratulations to Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador on his designation as Chair of this Thirtieth Conference of the States Parties. My delegation reaffirms its support to him throughout his term. We are confident that he, together with the elected regional Vice-chairs, will carry out their duties to the highest standard.
10. In conclusion, Costa Rica wishes to highlight the outstanding work of the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, during his eight-year tenure, a period in which we witnessed significant advances in the working methods of the Technical Secretariat and notable improvements in the Organization's infrastructure and resources, including the construction of the Chemistry and Technology Centre. He also managed challenging situations due to their geopolitical considerations. His leadership and performance have laid a solid foundation that we are confident his successor, Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter, whom we congratulate and wish every success, will continue to strengthen in pursuit of a world permanently free of chemical weapons. Ambassador Arias's brilliant role was complemented by the equally exemplary performance of the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono. Our recognition extends to both of them, as well as to the various Directors and Heads of Divisions, for their diligent and efficient work during this period.
11. I respectfully request that this intervention be considered an official document of this Conference of the States Parties and that it be published on Catalyst and on the Organization's website.