



BRAZIL — National Statement by H.E. Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães Permanent Representative of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the OPCW at the 111th Session of the Executive Council

The Hague, 10-13 March 2026

MISTER CHAIRPERSON,

BRAZIL ACKNOWLEDGES YOUR important work as Chair of the Executive Council, and remains confident that our deliberations will be guided in a spirit of openness and inclusivity.

Let me take this opportunity to also thank Director General Fernando Arias and Deputy Director General Odette Melono for the commendable work they have been doing at the helm of the OPCW. Brazil extends its compliments as well to the entire Technical Secretariat and staff of our Organization.

Brazil approaches the year ahead ready to work hard for our shared goals under the CWC. We stand deeply aware and alert at this juncture of international life, in face of multiple geopolitical challenges. Our collective obligations are even more relevant as we see the unfortunate dismantlement of multilateral non-proliferation and disarmament regimes that have sustained global order for the past 80 years. The sequence of regrettable assaults to the world order and institutions that have given us some level of global stability demands increased vigilance. We must protect the integrity and credibility of the OPCW.

Brazil is engaged in expanding scientific cooperation and knowledge-sharing. We believe that the OPCW is an invaluable platform to exchange information and build capacities across the membership. This is even more so with respect to building

capacity in developing countries, given the challenges we still face in ensuring a due geographical representation in the Technical Secretariat.

For Brazil, 2026 will be another year full of activities and we look forward:

- to our partnership with Colombia and Guinea Bissau;
- to the laboratory twinning project between Brazil's Chemical Analysis Laboratory (LAQ/CTEx) and Morocco's Institute Criminologique de la Gendarmerie Royale (IGCT);
- to the Cycle on Assistance and Protection for our partners in the Community of Portuguese Language Countries, in Rio de Janeiro; and
- to the CHEMEX GRULAC in the Dominican Republic, in which Brazil will participate at the expert level.

Looking more closely to our work here in The Hague, Brazil remains firmly committed to advancing the purpose of a world free of chemical weapons.

In the year when we start the transition to a new leadership in the OPCW, Brazil looks forward to collaborating closely with our new Director-General and her team.

As we do so, Brazil will continue to promote an Organization that remains faithful to the universal principles and technical credentials that underpin the CWC.

The record from 2025 displays unfortunate episodes of hurtful governance glitches: back-room scheming, selective and exclusive consultations in closed circles, draft decisions circulated with not enough reasonable time for comments, procedural manoeuvres which simply disregarded constructive comments presented by interested members. And all of these governance challenges occurred in a highly sensitive file.

It is therefore with great concern that Brazil views the growing tendency of a number of states parties that will rather cut corners by deliberately choosing to disregard our rights and obligations as full members of the organization. Let us be reminded that the OPCW belongs to all its members, it is certainly not a monopoly of preferential players.

We will always privilege transparency, impartiality and technical rigor

Let us proceed guided by these principles as we address important files on our docket, such as the Syria chemical weapons program, where we believe there is an opportunity to make concrete difference.

Thank you.