



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Fifteenth Session  
29 November – 3 December 2010

C-15/NAT.5  
29 November 2010  
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JORGE LOMÓNACO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO AT THE  
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

I wish to express my sincere congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and assure you of the support of my delegation. I am certain that your experience and diplomatic skills will lead us to a successful conclusion of this Conference. I also wish to thank your predecessor, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba, Permanent Representative of Lithuania to the OPCW, for his able conduction of the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Furthermore, I wish to recognise the presence of Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, in what it is his first participation in the Conference of the States Parties since his appointment as Director-General of the OPCW last year and reiterate to him the full support of Mexico for successful leadership at the helm of the Technical Secretariat.

Mr Chairperson,

Mexico is deeply concerned by the fact that, once again, we are confronted with a situation that could undermine the achievements of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and jeopardise its ability to carry on with its work. I refer to the lack of agreement on the Programme and Budget for 2011. As it did happen two years ago, we arrived at the Conference of the States Parties without a decision from the Executive Council and, once more, we are faced with a problem as if it were a choice between principles and pragmatism, choice that we consider a false one.

Let us be straightforward, we all know that, in fact, the difference of opinions is about two inspections to other chemical production facilities, which represent only 0.02 percent of the Organisation's budget. In other words, this is not a budgetary controversy but the expression of a more profound problem: the lack of agreement on a definitive site-selection methodology for OCPF inspections, a decision that has been pending for over 10 years. As we see it, there has been little political will to solve it, which, if it continues like this, could badly reflect on what a credible and successful organisation the OPCW is.



Mexico strongly believes in the verification system established in the Chemical Weapons Convention and considers it a key instrument for disarmament and non-proliferation. If, within its regulatory framework, we cannot find solutions to advance these purposes, we run the risk to be stuck for many years in the same problems. Therefore, Mexico will try to play a constructive role and would try to serve as a bridge to bring closer together the different arguments so as to be able to adopt a decision on the budget for 2011 in this Conference. But our efforts, Mr Chairperson, should go beyond in order to avoid this recurrent situation. In this sense, Mexico urges all the delegations to solve the issue of a definitive site-selection methodology for OCPF inspections as soon as possible.

Mr Chairperson,

This summer we were informed by one more State Party that it will not be able to conclude the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles as set forth in the final extended deadline. This is a cause of serious concern for Mexico, as by now the two main possessor States Parties had notified they only will be able to finish the destruction of 100% of their stockpiles well beyond 2012. Up to date, these are the facts, and although we do not wish this to happen, we, as States Parties, have the responsibility to prepare ourselves to deal with this reality sooner rather than later.

Mexico considers that the questions as to when and how to discuss this matter have been overcome by the fact that we are already considering it in substance, and although in an initial stage, in the framework of the informal consultations under the leadership of the Chair of the Executive Council. We know this is a forum where decisions are not going to be taken, but these consultations have proven very useful because all delegations have been able to express their ideas, positions, and concerns in an open and transparent manner. In other words, we are making progress.

So far, we could conclude there seems to be consensus on the fact that amendments to the Chemical Weapons Convention are not a viable option since it is both impractical and, more certainly, at least for some of us, unacceptable to change the legal framework to adapt it to reality; it is the reality which has to be adapted to the Convention. For Mexico, the paramount consideration in solving this matter is to safeguard the integrity of the Convention and, therefore, the debate should strengthen it, not debilitate it.

Mexico's position, once the option of amendments is being set aside, is that we should concentrate our time and efforts on identifying and exploring remedies to the situation. The Convention does not specify the measures the Executive Council should request the States Parties to take, but allows the Council to consider a list of measures or the possibility of identifying new ones. In this context, we believe we could stick to what the Convention sets out and/or be creative enough to propose other realistic and useful remedies, but always in the existing legal framework. At the end, we must be clear that whatever decisions are taken, these must be made by the Policy-Making Organs of the OPCW and not anywhere else.

Notwithstanding all of the above mentioned, we should not forget, not for a single moment, that the destruction of chemical weapons is a standing and unrenounceable obligation and, therefore, the possessor States Parties must complete the destruction of their stockpiles irrespective of the solution we may agree on.

Mr Chairperson,

We are very close to 2012 and for some time now there has been talk about the need for the OPCW to change its focus from disarmament to non-proliferation. It is true that some things are going to change after 2012, but in Mexico's opinion, to circumscribe the discussion of the future of the OPCW on this disjunctive it would mean to oversimplify a much more complex reality.

In contrast, there are issues that need to be addressed urgently, such as the impact that the imminent reduction of destruction activities will bring about on matters like tenure policy, the number of inspectors and the budget. These are some of the issues that we will face and, therefore, we need to begin discussing them as soon as possible. Consequently, Mexico supports the establishment of facilitations on these issues and it will participate actively in the discussions.

Mr Chairperson,

Mexico participated actively and constructively in the negotiations of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, convinced that it would contribute to a general and complete disarmament and to international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes. That is why Mexico signed the Convention in 1993, ratified it in 1994 and, since its establishment in 1997, has contributed vigorously to the functioning and strengthening of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. In the same sense, Mexico is and it will keep strongly committed to the principles and objectives of the Convention and to the work of the OPCW, as they are very useful multilateral instruments promoting international peace and security.

Thank you.

I appreciate this statement is issued as an official document of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

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