



Statement by the Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, Ambassador Dr. Alvaro Moerzinger in the 19th. Conference of States Parties

Madam Chairperson,

On behalf of my delegation I wish to express my sincere congratulations on your election as Chairperson of the Nineteenth Conference of States Parties to the OPCW. We have no doubt that the conduct of this session is fully guaranteed by your diplomatic experience and personal skills, which will lead to the results we seek from this current endeavour.

I also wish to highlight the outstanding work of your predecessor HE Ambassador of Iraq, Al-Sa'ad Ibrahim Ali Abdul Majeed, who led with dedication and effort the Conference that brings us together.

I also wish to acknowledge the work of Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü. His management on relevant issues on our agenda has always stood for transparency and close cooperation with States Parties. In his new capacity in the Conference, as Director General of the OPCW, I wish to express the support of Uruguay for the continual success of his management.

Madam Chairperson,

Uruguay considers that the Chemical Weapons Convention is a model among multilateral mechanisms on disarmament and non-proliferation and an extremely useful instrument of security for the attainment of peace. Therefore, it is and will remain committed to its principles and objectives.

It is also worth noting that the Organization has successfully adapted to the new technical and political challenges that have been raised as a result of the complex and sensitive process that began with the entry of the Syrian Arab Republic and have allowed the OPCW, with the participation of the entire international community, to fulfill the process of dismantling the chemical program in the country.

In this sense, Uruguay is confident that with the continual support of all parties, any important issue derived from this process such as those that occurred in the month of April in Syria; perfecting the initial declaration, destroying plants of destruction and the clarification of the scope of use of chemical weapons.

Madam Chairperson,

Achieving the full universality remains an important unresolved issue of our Convention. Uruguay understands that joint efforts between the states parties with big influence, together with the Technical Secretariat, should be made on those who have not yet join the Convention. The Convention has proven to be a useful tool in eliminating the scourge of chemical weapons, a goal not achieved unless the whole international community would be part of it. In this sense we make a new call to those countries that have not yet acceded to join the Convention without further delay and without conditions.

Madam Chairperson,

Since the adoption of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Uruguay had almost completed its obligations under Art. VII. The only compatibility that remained was just resolved, the enactment of the law 19.205 that implements the relevant legislative and administrative measures. Thus my country joins those Member States that have fully incorporated the Convention into national legislation. In this sense, the positive expectation of the efforts of other states for the full implementation of the Convention in their national jurisdictions looks to be reinforced.

Madam Chairperson,

The Delegation of Uruguay supports the proposed budget presented by the Director General and endorsed by the Executive Board at its seventy-seventh session, which represents a sincere effort to strengthen the balanced way of the pillars of the Convention, such as chemical demilitarization, non-proliferation, assistance and protection, international cooperation, universality, national implementation and management effectiveness.

Madam Chairperson,

The activity of this Organization on international cooperation is the greatest interest of States Parties, such as Uruguay, who has neither weapons nor chemical industry relevant to the objective and purpose of the Convention. In this regard, we call for the progress in the implementation of the decisions we have taken on this issue, in order to full achieve, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

Clearly, we will support all initiatives that promote this Organization to strength such programs, framed in promoting economic and technological development of States Parties, are aimed at building national capacities through the exchange of scientific and technical information, the provision of scholarships and fellowships, support for research and development of chemical safety.

Madam Chairperson,

It is important to prevent emergencies that may cause us to forget the other tasks and objectives that we have set for the future. Thus, we must work keeping in mind the roadmap agreed at the Third Review Conference, understanding that all provisions of the Convention are mutually reinforcing.

Madam Chairperson,

The achievements of the OPCW in preserving the culture of cooperation and consensus building to carry out issues related to peace and security, and more specifically the issues related to disarmament and non-proliferation, should remain preserved in this session. In this regard, Madame Chairman, you can expect the full commitment of Uruguay

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference.

Thank you very much, Madam Chairperson.

