



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-First Session
28 November – 2 December 2016

C-21/NAT.29
29 November 2016
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR IBARROLA NICOLÍN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW AT
THE TWENTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

1. Mexico congratulates Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany on his election as Chairperson of this Conference, and we are confident that his experience and dedication will be key in achieving our goals. We also voice our recognition of Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon, Chairperson of the Executive Council, and the work that she has been carrying out.
2. The delegation of Mexico has taken note of the statement by Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and his report on the activities of the Organisation over the past year, for which we voice our sincere gratitude and extend our congratulations to the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for the commendable efforts that they are undertaking.
3. I would like to express my appreciation for the many and humbling words of recognition that many delegations have offered regarding my term as Chairperson of the Conference.
4. In spite of the progress made toward universality of the Convention, the important advances toward the complete destruction of chemical weapons and successful examples of international collaboration, such as the removal of all of the Category 2 chemicals from Libya for their subsequent destruction outside of that country, Mexico observes with concern the fact that some States are still not members of the OPCW and that the use of chemical weapons continues in the world, both by Parties to the Convention and non-State actors.
5. Mexico is attentively following the chemical disarmament process in the Syrian Arab Republic and will continue to support the work aimed at the complete verification and destruction of its chemical stockpiles and production facilities, as well as the efforts to investigate the use of chemical weapons in its territory and hold those responsible accountable in line and in accordance with the provisions set out by the Convention and other applicable legal standards.
6. Mexico applauds the efforts of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, led by Ambassador of Ghana, Joe Tony Aidoo, and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, led by the Ambassador of Chile, María Teresa Infante. Mexico will continue



to support their work to reinforce the mandate of the Convention in the face of new global challenges.

7. This context implies recognising that there are scientific and technological advances that may pose new challenges to the Convention. For this reason, Mexico welcomes the document submitted by Australia and Switzerland that seeks to address the legal, technical, medical, and humanitarian aspects of the use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes.
8. At the same time, Mexico supports the efforts of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, co-chaired by Ambassadors Bruce Koloane of South Africa and Sabine Nölke of Canada, to identify the challenges facing the Organisation in the twenty-first century and to be prepared to present at the Fourth Review Conference specific proposals on universality, verification, destruction, prevention, non-State actors, education and outreach, and on key human, financial, and technological resources available to the OPCW.
9. In this context, international cooperation in the development of peaceful uses of chemistry, together with mechanisms for evaluating the results thereof, should be part of the transverse axes of the OPCW's future priorities and represent one of the pillars of the Convention.
10. The exchange of experts, equipment, and information for the peaceful use of chemistry is fundamental for Mexico, including capabilities in chemical security. Mexico was the host of the Subregional Exercise on Responding to Chemical Warfare Agents and Incidents Involving Toxic Industrial Chemicals, which took place last May in the city of Guadalajara and was attended by nine countries from Central America and the Caribbean.
11. Furthermore, we applaud the efforts to establish the Rapid Response and Assistance Mission for chemical security contingencies.
12. For the third consecutive year, Mexico made a contribution to the OPCW Voluntary Fund for Assistance in order to support its capacity to respond to the use of chemical weapons.
13. In this regard, the efforts of the Advisory Board for Education and Outreach—of which Mexican scientist Benjamín Ruiz Loyola, a leader in youth education, is a member—are essential; chemical security requires raising awareness among civil society about the existence and the risks of the use, proliferation, and re-emergence of chemical weapons.
14. In the same manner, we welcome the Global Code of Ethics for Chemists, which was developed this past April by 30 scientists from 18 countries in Malaysia, having taken inspiration from The Hague Ethical Guidelines adopted at our last Conference following the initiative from Germany. We firmly believe that the education of the youth and future professionals in chemistry must be based on universal ethical principles.

15. Mexico supports the adoption of the OPCW 2017 Budget and Programme, which was the result of an intense process of consultations and managed to focus resources on operative projects, with zero nominal growth.
16. In the current situation and as we approach the OPCW's twentieth anniversary in 2017, the Organisation will require the commitment, recognition, and support of all of the States Parties in order to continue developing and broadening its mission to achieve a world free of chemical weapons, thus honouring the efforts deemed worthy of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.
17. I kindly request that this statement be published on the OPCW website and considered an official document of this Conference.

Thank you.

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