



PORTUGAL

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR CLARA NUNES DOS SANTOS AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Chair, Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Portugal fully aligns with the Statement delivered by the European Union, and we would like to add some remarks in our national capacity.

The Portuguese delegation warmly welcomes you, Ambassador Agustín Gómez, as the chair of this Conference. We want to assure you of our full support and wish you every success for your new mandate.

We would also like to thank the outgoing chair, Ambassador Almir Sahovic, for his outstanding leadership of the 29th Conference of State Parties and the chair of the Executive Council, Ambassador Thomas Schieb, for the manner in which he stirred the workings of the Executive Council and the complex process of nominating the next Director-General.

I take this opportunity to personally address Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and express the deep gratitude of my authorities for the impressive and dedicated way he performed his role as Director-General during his tenure. We commend his skillful leadership, judgment, commitment, availability, and expertise. Director-General, you navigated troubled waters with exceptional wisdom, and the high caliber of your work will be remembered by all those who had the privilege to work with you. Your legacy will endure in our memories.

We would furthermore extend our equally great appreciation to Deputy Director General Ambassador Odette Melono and the entire team of the Technical Secretariat for all their dedication and hard work.

Mr. Chairperson,



Portugal has always advocated for the universality, credibility, and integrity of the Convention and will remain committed to ensuring that the illegal use of chemical weapons shall never be permitted anywhere, at any time, by anyone, and under any circumstance. The success of the Organization lies in its noble objectives, namely in its verification activities, in ensuring full compliance with the CWC and zero tolerance for impunity.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would also like to refer to the Organization's role as a catalyst for international cooperation and assistance in the peaceful uses of chemistry. It is in this context that I welcome, with great satisfaction, the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OPCW and the Community of Portuguese-speaking countries in June 2025, in Lisbon, with the presence of the Director-General.

This unprecedented and strategic Memorandum establishes a framework for enhanced cooperation in vital areas, such as capacity building, assistance and protection, and knowledge transfer. It is a step in the direction of full universalization of the CWC, proving to be a model of how international organizations can collaborate efficiently to promote regional and global security, adapting the OPCW's mandate to the specific realities and needs of linguistic and cultural groups.

We thank you, Mr. Director-General, for presenting all of us with the opportunity to advance a decade-long challenge, leading to the successful conclusion of this Memorandum.

Mr. Chairperson,

We stand at a moment of paramount significance. The unlawful Russian aggression against Ukraine and the reported findings of the use of riot control agents, prohibited by the Convention, constitute a challenge and a concern for the International Community and for the OPCW, which we must urgently address.

The fall of the Assad regime and the recent political developments with the new Syrian authorities have created a unique window of opportunity to finally face the remnants of the former regime's chemical weapons program. Portugal welcomes the constructive approach of the new authorities and recalls with appreciation the commitment expressed by the Permanent



Representative of Syria at the UN Security Council on 12 September to verify and destroy all remaining chemical weapons. We fully support the Decision on Expedited On-Site Destruction, which we have cosponsored, and believe that time is of the essence. Until all sites are secured and all relevant materials are documented and destroyed, significant proliferation risks remain.

Mr. Chairperson,

In this light, Portugal supports the Programme and Budget before this Conference, particularly its focus on zero nominal growth and securing the operational continuity of the Technical Secretariat. We recall the requirement for all States Parties to fulfil their financial obligations, ensuring that core capabilities are sustainably funded. A predictable and adequate budget is essential to guaranteeing OPCW's effectiveness and its capacity to adapt to future challenges and emergent technologies.

We also welcome the creation of the Special Fund for Syria and are ready to evaluate all possible avenues for contributions to ensure the success of the Syria mission.

Mr Chairperson.

Last but not least, my delegation warmly congratulates and conveys its best wishes to Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter, for her appointment as the next Director-General. We are confident in a smooth and transparent transition and in her remarkable capacities in upholding the Organisation's independence, technical excellence, inclusivity, and impartiality.

We request that this statement be adopted as an official document of this Conference and published on the Organization's public website and Catalyst platform.

Thank you.