



OPCW

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PERU

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ALLAN WAGNER TIZÓN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman, Director-General, distinguished delegates,

Allow me, Mr Chairman, to subscribe to the statements of my predecessors in congratulating you and the members of the General Committee on your election to this position, and in offering you the support of the delegation of Peru in your important tasks. At the same time, we should like to thank Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for her work as Chair of the Working Group for Preparation of the Third Review Conference, as well as the Director-General of the Organisation for the important reports which he has presented to us.

My delegation supports the statement made by the Minister of Iran on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

The Third Review Conference is a great opportunity to discuss priorities in the work which the OPCW must carry out over the next five years.

In this context, Peru believes that the OPCW is a highly successful body, bearing in mind the notable progress achieved in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. However, this task has not yet been completed and must continue to be the main priority for the OPCW.

Peru contributed to the drafting, and voted in favour, of the decision adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, which established the procedures for the finalisation and verification of chemical weapons destruction on the part of possessor States beyond the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012. The Chemical Weapons Convention was thus prevented from being seen to be violated; on the contrary, the credibility and integrity of the Convention were reinforced.

At the same time, with the adoption of this and other decisions of the Conference of the States Parties and the Executive Council, one can expect that all categories of chemical weapons will be destroyed within the shortest possible time.

It is equally important that we work together to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. For this reason, strengthening the verification regime of the Chemical Weapons Convention must be our second priority.



In this context, Peru welcomed the approval in 2011 of the policy guidelines for determining the number of chemical industry inspections under Article VI of the Convention—on the basis of the proposal presented by Peru in its capacity as facilitator—in order to ensure that facilities producing toxic substances, or those likely to produce them, are inspected with the frequency necessary to reassure the States Parties.

A third priority is for all the States Parties to achieve full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in accordance with Article VII. It is a matter of concern to us that only a limited percentage of States Parties has fully implemented the Convention, and as a result, many States do not yet have the necessary tools to develop adequately their national capacities.

We therefore call upon those States Parties which have not yet done so to contact the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW in order to coordinate the necessary steps for full implementation of the Convention.

At this point it is fitting to recall that, with the approval of the Law on Measures for the Control of Chemical Substances Susceptible to Use in the Production of Chemical Weapons, dated 28 May 2008, and its Regulations dated 15 June 2011, Peru has fully complied with all the obligations provided for in Article VII of the Convention.

Fourthly, it is of great importance that in the next five years a significant boost is given to the field of cooperation, another of the fundamental pillars of the Convention, to contribute to the expansion of chemical industry and trade between all member states, without discrimination and under secure conditions.

This topic also involves the development of other forms of cooperation between States, for example, to respond to possible attacks involving chemical weapons.

In the field of assistance and protection, on 5 December 2011 the Agreement on Procurement of Assistance was concluded between Peru and the OPCW, the aim of which is to provide cooperation to the States Parties in accordance with Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the face of any request from the Technical Secretariat in this regard.

It is worth emphasising the fact that the agreement between Peru and the OPCW, the first of its kind in Latin America, also promotes the development of an assistance network in our region, which Peru would like to encourage.

Fifthly, in order for the Chemical Weapons Convention to make a significant contribution to achieving and maintaining international peace and security, it is of great importance that the Convention achieves universality.

The events in Syria are a dramatic illustration of this overriding necessity and, for this reason, we express our support for the investigation to be conducted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the collaboration of the OPCW and other international organisations.

We believe that, in the years to come, great efforts need to be made on the part of the Member States and the Director-General of the OPCW in this sphere. One option to consider is the designation of a special task force which would develop an approach for each State not

Party. These States would be contacted or visited by special, high-level envoys designated on a case-by-case basis.

Finally, it is with concern that we note the existence of non-State actors who try to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their vector systems. In this connection, Security Council Resolution 1540 and the principal international instruments relating to weapons of mass destruction, including the Chemical Weapons Convention, are very important, as they compel all members of the United Nations to adopt and implement effective measures to prevent non-State actors from gaining control of such weapons, for the purposes of terrorism, in particular.

In this respect, unfortunately, little progress has been made, and it is time for the States Parties to address, in a clear and straightforward manner, the threat that would be posed by the existence of non-State actors or terrorist groups in possession of chemical weapons.

Peru supports the work that the OPCW is doing in this area and believes that it ought to be reinforced over the next five years. This should be our sixth priority. It is extremely important to coordinate with other international organisations, as well as to strengthen the assistance and cooperation programmes with a view to improving national capacities, which would enable States Parties to be in a position to combat non-State possessors of chemical weapons.

In conclusion, Mr Chairman, I should like to reiterate my country's commitment to strengthening and consolidating the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as an effective instrument against the use and resurgence of these weapons, in the certainty that it is contributing to the objective of a world free of chemical weapons, where the re-emergence of chemical weapons has been eliminated, and where international cooperation is fully guaranteed.

I should be grateful if this statement could be considered as one of the official documents of this Conference.

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