



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBARROLA NICOLÍN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW  
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

My delegation sincerely congratulates you on your election as Chairman of this Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I should also like to welcome the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, and his team members of the Technical Secretariat.

You can count on the support of the delegation of Mexico in the successful conclusion of this work.

Chemical weapons have been prohibited and condemned for irrefutable reasons: the unacceptable harm they cause and their indiscriminate effect, which is contrary to the principles of international law. The role of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the attainment of a safer world is undeniable. In addition to the prohibition of this armament, the verification regime established for the destruction of chemical weapons is the most advanced and effective of its kind, and represents the standard to which we aspire with respect to the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction.

This Third Review Conference is being held in the face of the challenges represented by the lack of universality of the Convention. This is a concern for my country and for the international community.

Mexico once again calls upon the Review Conference to declare conclusively that the use of chemical weapons, by any actor and under any circumstances, is absolutely unacceptable. Therefore, we call upon all those States Parties which have yet to sign or ratify the Convention to do so without delay and, in the meantime, to adhere to the spirit of this instrument. This is one of the most important messages conveyed yesterday morning by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The destruction of the chemical arsenals is fundamental for international peace and security. It is the origin, the objective and the main pillar of the Convention. The fact that the total elimination of these weapons has not been achieved within the final extended deadline ought to generate a greater commitment on the part of the possessor States to meet their obligations



and to continue with their destruction plans under strict verification by the OPCW. The credibility and integrity of the Convention depend on this.

The prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons by means of the unique regime for the verification of chemical industry enables the OPCW to conduct inspections at any time and in any place, while the State Party does not have the right to refuse; this represents the highest standard of verification in the field of disarmament. We recognise the efforts of the States Parties and of the Technical Secretariat in having conducted almost a thousand inspections over the last five years.

International cooperation is fundamental to the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry while helping to prevent prohibited activities. Since 2008 we have made pragmatic and positive progress in defining concrete measures for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention as a way to strengthen mutual trust and to contribute to States' economic and technological development.

We acknowledge the progress that has been made in terms of the implementation of national legislation measures, but we are concerned that less than half of the Member States have adopted legislation which covers all the key areas of the Convention. Mexico believes it is important to continue with the Technical Secretariat's assistance programmes and the bilateral offers of States Parties in order that the administrative and legislative measures stipulated in Article VII are adopted. It is also important to contribute to a greater sense of security and confidence among States Parties.

We can no longer avoid addressing the threat of use and the use of chemical weapons on the part of States which remain outside the Convention, as in the case of Syria, or by non-State groups. The Review Conference must assess Member States' ability to respond to emergencies and keep up-to-date the provision of assistance by the Technical Secretariat to a request in the event of an attack or threat involving chemical weapons.

My delegation recognises the intensive work and the efforts which the Chair of the open-ended working group, Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria, has made over a period of almost one year in a constructive, inclusive, and transparent manner so as to be able to deliver a document which serves as a basis for the work of this Conference.

Mexico reaffirms its commitment to the Convention and calls on all the States Parties to work throughout this review to reinforce the regime established by the Convention, and to lay the foundations for the future work of the OPCW, while taking into consideration the advances in science and technology, as well as the challenges these will represent for our Organisation. Mexico, along with other States Parties, hopes that this Conference will adopt a document that will guide the efforts of the OPCW over the next few years.

I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this Conference.

Thank you very much.