



**OPCW**

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**BOLIVIA**

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROBERTO CALZADILLA SARMIENTO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, I should like to express our congratulations on your appointment as Chairman of this Third Review Conference. We shall extend our full support, cooperation and trust to all the members of the General Committee so as to achieve success during this Conference. The significant presence of and the message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, is a clear sign of the political relevance attached by the international community to the complete destruction of chemical weapons, the current threats of the use of chemical weapons in a State not Party to the Convention, and the future role of the OPCW.

We extend our greetings to Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW, thank him for his important statement and his constant efforts towards the fulfilment of the objectives of the Convention, and encourage his commitment.

At the same time, we appreciate and welcome the work carried out by the Ambassador of Algeria, Her Excellency Nassima Baghli, as Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of this Third Review Conference. It is her leadership which has guided the work of our delegations over the last few months, and which allows us, today, to have an essential working document and the basic guidelines for the future of our Organisation.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia fully associates itself with the statement made by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, presented by the Deputy Minister for International Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, M.M. Akhondzadeh.

Mr Chairman, this Conference is an important opportunity to establish talks among States on the working of the Convention and the near future, whereby we aim to achieve a final, balanced document which has a political vision for the future for the four pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention with a view to facilitating the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all of the articles thereof.

My delegation would like to highlight the progress made in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which contributes to a world free of chemical weapons and, at the same time, to international peace and security, as well as representing a multilateral success of the efforts of the international community.



The Plurinational State of Bolivia hereby expresses its deep concern about the fact that, after all the efforts made and commitments undertaken by the States Parties 16 years ago, when the expectation was that the process of destroying chemical stockpiles would not exceed the deadline of 15 years, since the entry into force of the Convention, this has not been completed, and we must therefore reiterate our call to the possessor States to complete the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons. It has taken 16 years to destroy 80% of the chemical weapons stockpiles, and it now seems hard to understand why it will not be possible to meet this objective fully before the next Review Conference, but rather that ten more years are needed to destroy the remaining 20% of chemical weapons which the possessor States ought to destroy within a shorter deadline.

We are facing a critical situation involving undeclared and unverified chemical weapons of those States which have yet to join the Convention; these States represent a developing concern and a threat to world peace. In this context, Bolivia fully supports the investigation initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the support of the OPCW, into the possible use of chemical weapons in Syria.

We note the need to make renewed joint efforts to encourage the eight States not Party to the Convention, and show them how important it is that they join. More active participation by States Parties in the process of achieving the universality of our Convention as an instrument for ensuring a world free of chemical weapons, as highlighted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, is essential. Therefore, we believe that the States that are in a position to do so are those which have political links and regional interrelationships, and these, with support from the Technical Secretariat, could result in a fruitful rapprochement for the achievement of this immediate objective over the next five years.

We strongly believe that in order to accomplish a world free of chemical weapons, the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all the articles of the Convention is vital, which is why we place a high value on the execution of the plan of action regarding Article VII of the Convention and the work and additional efforts of the Technical Secretariat which, in conjunction with the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, among other activities, help to build national capacities in this implementation process; this is an important preliminary step towards reaching a major political commitment in this process.

In this connection, we support the activities and mechanisms envisaged in the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in relation to the elements of Article XI and all the necessary recommendations for achieving the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article, with emphasis on the links with economic and technological development. Especially necessary and urgent, in our opinion, are the approval of an action plan regarding Article XI and the importance of the availability of adequate resources in the Organisation's budget, whereby this objective can be more efficiently achieved.

Over the next five years we must also continue to develop national capacities for assistance and protection against chemical weapons and emergencies in the States Parties, including analysis of the possible advantage of establishing regional and subregional centres for such purposes.

As we reiterate our firm commitment to the work of the Organisation, I would appreciate it if this statement could be circulated as an official document of the Third Review Conference.

Thank you.