



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

COSTA RICA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JORGE URBINA ORTEGA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF COSTA RICA
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

Firstly I should like to congratulate you on your election to chair the work of this Third Review Conference. Costa Rica trusts in your vision, experience and diplomatic abilities to bring our current duties to a successful conclusion. I should also like to express my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for her distinguished work as Chair of the working group for preparation of this Conference. Our greetings to the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü; we express our thanks to him and the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for their valuable contributions to the direction and success of the Conference.

Costa Rica feels that the adherence of 188 States to the Convention is cause for satisfaction. However, the continued existence of a group of States that have yet to ratify the Convention is a concern for my country. Bringing them into the community of States Parties is not a task solely for the Organisation. The States Parties to the Convention must encourage the accession of those which are not party. This duty is morally more important for the States that maintain exceptional ties with or influence over those which have not signed the Convention or those which, having done that, have not yet ratified it.

There can be no doubt as to the positive nature of the OPCW's results in the field of destruction of chemical weapons. This success is the result of the commitment of the States Parties to the objectives of the Convention. It is indeed regrettable that, with the agreed deadlines having passed, the goal of total destruction has not been achieved. However, my country recognises and appreciates the repeated commitment of the States that have yet to complete destruction of chemical weapons. Costa Rica has confidence in their willingness to fulfil their obligations which they voluntarily imposed on themselves in joining the Convention, and to do so as soon as possible.

The progress achieved by the Organisation in the area of destruction of chemical arsenals and States' voluntary adherence to a disarmament regime with verification is notable, but we still have causes for concern. It is still necessary to put a definitive stop to the threat of use and the use of chemical weapons in armed conflict. We trust that the international community will establish the truth of the events in the Syrian Arab Republic and take steps to expedite the total and definitive prohibition of chemical weapons. It is also a matter of urgency for the



international community to deal with chemical weapons that have been abandoned in locations and conditions which hinder their destruction.

This Conference presents an opportunity to assess what has happened over the last five years, but it is also an important occasion on which to orient the future of this Organisation, which has achieved significant goals and which is obliged to organise itself in such a way as to preserve its assets and increase its efficiency.

The pillars on which this establishment rests are both permanent and important objectives. Their unity is the reason for their legitimacy among States. However, it will come as no surprise to anyone that small countries that are engaged in human development, like my own, wish to see an OPCW that promotes international cooperation with more drive and more actively encourages the peaceful use of chemistry. We believe that Article XI does not merit a restrictive interpretation which turns it into a mere safeguard of the rights of the States and a limit on discriminatory practices. International cooperation, the transfer of knowledge and technology, and the furtherance of human development are necessary elements of its interpretation.

We are certain that the future will provide fertile ground to deepen the roots that anchor this Organisation in the quest for higher values of coexistence. It is essential to establish this Organisation within the global architecture of security and to develop synergies with other agencies working towards disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Equally relevant are the strengthening of the permanent contact with chemical industry and the continuous exchange with the scientific community, the academic world and civil society. The Organisation and the States Parties must obtain from the Scientific Advisory Board the best specialised advice in science and technology to implement the Convention effectively, and they must resort more frequently to creating temporary working groups of scientists which make recommendations on specific topics.

Costa Rica advocates that this Conference include recommendations to reinforce assistance and cooperation with States in order to improve their ability to take measures which effectively avoid the production and use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, particularly terrorists and terrorist organisations.

Finally, Mr Chairman, my delegation considers the report by the working group to be a solid and sufficient foundation for the work of this Conference, and Costa Rica will participate with interest in enriching it. We trust that the consensus of the States Parties will provide the Organisation with a set of recommendations that will guide its work towards higher shared goals in security and international cooperation.