

As delivered

BRAZIL

Statement by H.E. Ambassador FERNANDO SIMAS MAGALHÃES,
Permanent Representative of the The Federative Republic of Brazil to the
OPCW at the 110th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item No. 5

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, dear colleagues

Brazil would like to offer our compliments to the Director General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, Deputy Director General, Odette Melono, and the entire staff of the Technical Secretariat.

Since the last session of the Executive Council, a number of important and consequential topics have been addressed by the membership, and we have navigated these discussions with a deep sense of commitment to the provisions of the CWC.

Mr. Chairperson,

The OPCW is living through a transition in leadership which takes place amidst a global context rife with risks of instability. It is crucial, in such a context, to safeguard the unique contribution the OPCW can offer to global governance, which is the technical nature of the fundamental work it performs.

As we move towards appointing new leaders for the OPCW, Brazil expects the next Director General to adhere to key principles for the appropriate functioning of the Organization, such as independence, technical rigor, transparency, impartiality. This includes appropriate representation in the decision-making process and governance by members with relevant industries.

[ELECTIONS]

Members still find themselves involved in the quite lengthy process to agree on a recommendation for the next Director General. We are not there yet. Despite this, we want to thank all the candidates for coming forward with their visions for the future of the OPCW. Going forward, it seems like we are in uncharted waters, which will require allowing the selection process to proceed with prudence and providing sufficient time for a decision to be made by consensus.

[BUDGET]

Dear colleagues,

Since EC-109, members have engaged in informal consultations to define the budget for the 2026-2027 biennium. These were not easy conversations, as should be expected from any discussion about setting priorities for fund allocation. We would like to thank our two facilitators - Mr. Francisco de la Lama, from Mexico, and Mr. Jerzy Gierasimiuk, from Poland – as well as the valuable technical support provided by the Technical Secretariat, which allowed members to explore the different financial scenarios.

Brazil is pleased with the outcome achieved following these consultations. At least for 2026, we managed to remain within the principle of "zero nominal growth" while at the same time allowing for the possibility of financing the additional technical work enabled by the current status of the Syria file. We hope that, for the entire biennium, we will be able to observe the principle of "zero nominal growth". As a member with no arrears, Brazil would like to commend all the members for finding solutions to meet ends with means.

[SYRIA]

Chair,

Brazil commends the efforts by the Director General and the Technical Secretariat to bring the Syria file to a close, particularly in view of the willingness of the Syrian authorities to collaborate with the OPCW. A draft decision that intends to build on this has been internally circulated, and now awaits a structured process of discussion, so that all relevant concerns and observations can be properly integrated into our deliberations. It is essential to remain responsive to the requests of the Technical Secretariat and the needs of States Parties; however this

responsiveness must not compromise the strict observance of the Convention's integrity.

The developments since last December show that the welcoming signs from Damascus take place at the same time that the political and security conditions in the region continue to show a significant level of instability. Such instability has also affected the work of the OPCW, as discussed in the Council session of July 22nd, in the wake of the air strikes which hit the Syrian capital. In view of the risks associated with such a context Brazil reaffirms its concern with the safety of the experts sent to the terrain.

Finally, a few words on expanding the reach of the Convention. We remain convinced that the next Director General should continue the efforts of enlarging the universal adoption of the Convention, in particular in the Middle East.

But expanding the reach and acceptance of the Convention also means building capacity. In this sense we very much look forward to seeing a CHEMEX in the Latin America and Caribbean region in 2026.

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Thank you.