



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA
EN EL REINO DE LOS PAÍSES BAJOS

**STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR ARNOLDO BRENES CASTRO,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF COSTA RICA TO
THE OPCW AT THE ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE
COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director-General
Distinguished delegates,

Today, the world is very different from the one that witnessed the adoption of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Events with regrettable implications for international peace and security, unprecedented technological developments, and humanitarian crises, shape the world we live in. In this context, Costa Rica reiterates its support for multilateral and diplomatic efforts that contribute to the peaceful resolution of conflicts and to international security. This Organization, as the implementing body of the Chemical Weapons Convention, is a clear example of such efforts.

My delegation reiterates Costa Rica's unequivocal commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Convention and to disarmament in general, while condemning the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. Consequently, we express our solidarity with the victims, their families, and all those who continue to suffer from such acts. Those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable for their actions.

Costa Rica thanks the Director-General for his detailed opening remarks, as well as the reports presented by the Vice-Chairs regarding the activities carried out within their respective topics. We take careful note of the latest developments concerning the chemical weapons elimination program in Syria, including the activities undertaken by the Office of Special Missions. We are mindful of the various limitations and challenges faced by both the Syrian authorities and the Secretariat in this endeavor. We welcome the commitment demonstrated by the Syrian authorities and encourage the continued cooperation between both parties, while ensuring the effective safety of all those involved. We express our appreciation for all the voluntary contributions that have allowed the program to remain active.



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA
EN EL REINO DE LOS PAÍSES BAJOS

In this regard, my delegation underscores the importance of the Organization having the necessary resources to ensure the fulfillment and continuity of its activities, aimed at the strict implementation of the Convention, while also considering the proper use and effective management of those resources. In this sense, we thank the Technical Secretariat for its hard work in preparing the draft budget 2026-2027, and the facilitators from Mexico and Poland for their efforts to put forward a proposal that best reflects the discussions concerning the biennial budget.

Moreover, Costa Rica, draws once again attention to the three reports of the Technical Secretariat that have confirmed the presence of riot control agents in Ukraine. While these reports are a demonstration of the Secretariat's exceptional professionalism, they are also evidence of a violation of the provisions of the Convention, which not only constitutes non-compliance with the norm but also poses a risk to international security. We urge the Secretariat to continue its excellent work by following up on and monitoring situations involving the potential use of chemical weapons, and by providing the necessary assistance.

My delegation recognizes the outstanding work of the Director- General and of the Technical Secretariat's staff. Being the Organization a platform for cooperation, innovation and capacity building, we highlight the efforts aimed at supporting States Parties to effectively implement the Convention. Furthermore, mindful of the rapid developments in science and technology, we underscore the Secretariat's commitment to deepen its understanding of how artificial intelligence can support the implementation of the Convention, while actively exploring options to strengthen the capacities of States. We trust that new technological tools can contribute to enhancing the working methods of the Technical Secretariat, including in areas such as verification.

Mr. Chairperson: chemical terrorism, the potential misuse of new technologies, and the use of chemical weapons by non-state actors are real threats. Therefore, we must reinforce our efforts to minimize these risks and ensure that chemistry is used for peaceful purposes. We appreciate joint initiatives such as, amongst others, last year's Conference in Morocco, the workshop in Shanghai on artificial intelligence, and the workshop on chemical terrorism organized by the United States and Argentina last August, which I had the opportunity to attend. Likewise, we welcome the progress aimed at consolidating the CHEMEX GRULAC, and we appreciate the contributions of Canada, Spain and the European Union.



EMBAJADA DE LA REPÚBLICA DE COSTA RICA
EN EL REINO DE LOS PAÍSES BAJOS

To conclude, Costa Rica, in its capacity as Observer State, recognizes the leadership and excellent work of Ambassador Thomas Schieb. We express our support and full confidence in his experience and ability in the role he has played both during the sessions of this Council and in the selection process of the next Director-General, regarding which my delegation conveys its sincere gratitude to State Parties for the support received for the candidacy presented by Costa Rica.

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, distinguished delegates, I respectfully request that this statement be considered as an official document of the One Hundred and Tenth session of this Executive Council, and that it be published both on the website and on Catalyst.