

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO
AMBASSADOR EDGAR ELÍAS AZAR

56 MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE CONSUL
NOVEMBER 9, 2017, THE HAGUE.

Mister President of the Board, Distinguish Permanent Representatives,

Since always, since the beginning of our Nation, Mexico's has hold and foreign policy rooted in a long tradition based on the respect for international law. Our country has achieved that by conserving its own values and principles, and by not affecting in this defenses any Nation, neither by intervention nor by word. On the contrary, we have never failed in showing to the world, with full conscience and will, that we are good friends, good neighbors, good allies and good co-workers; always maintaining our own values, identity and principles.

One of these principles is, without any doubts, the maintenance of peace. Not only by conserving it, but by searching it and making it victorious. Without stammering or hesitation, peace is one of the most precious values that the Mexican society and the State that represents it holds and cherish.

In this sense, Mexico condemns by all means the use of chemical weapons. We are aware that these atrocious acts can be perpetuated by non-governmental actors such as terrorist groups or the paramilitary, but also, they can be perpetuated by governments too. The use of chemical weapons, by any actor, supposes a barbaric act that threatens the stability of the world order protected and constructed by the international law; it turns down the peace among people and, fundamentally, it violates the most basic human rights of all individuals. These kinds of acts can never be, and I repeat NEVER, taken

as justified by any circumstances. This is why, all acts of this sort must be taken to justice and they should be punished by the rules of a pre-established law.

Considering the above, the OPCW has the high responsibility to investigate and verify all acts related to the use of chemical weapons, all these in terms of the Convention.

This is why, we should not diminish the well obtained credibility that the OPCW has achieved until now, Mexico considers that this Organization must keep obtaining the same high achievements in the destruction of chemical weapons and in the results of its investigations.

Accordingly, Mexico stresses the importance that the rules and the procedures agreed upon the Convention should be punctually applied and respected. OPAQ and their inspections or verification activities must keep the high standards to clarify and determine the facts of any given event in the world where chemical weapons were used. We should add, that when suspects are found, they must be taken to justice for them to be judge according to pre-established and accepted Laws.

Thank you very much.