



## **BRAZIL — Statement by H.E. Ambassador Fernando Simas Magalhães at the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention under Agenda Item No. 5 – Organization of Work and Establishment of Subsidiary Bodies**

*The Hague, 25 – 29 November 2024*

MR. CHAIRPERSON,

Brazil would like to thank and compliment the African Group for drawing our attention to the necessity of a closer analysis of our current voting practice for membership in the Executive Council. The non-paper introduced by the distinguished ambassador of Ghana raises legitimate and well justified questions, which deserve our detained attention.

We have carefully studied the non-paper and revisited the Convention and relevant rules of procedure of the CSP in light of the current practice. It is irrefutable, as indicated by the African Group, that there is ample room to clarify the way we apply procedures regarding the election process in this forum.

Relevant concerns have been raised, be it concerning the criteria that determine the validity of a ballot paper, be it the possibility of multiple rounds of voting and, more importantly, in which way the current interpretation, supported only by recent practice and not explicitly reflected in the rules of procedure, restricts the freedom of choice of the States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We also commend Guatemala for presenting a complementary and helpful perspective to the matter at hand, adding yet another layer of possible interpretation of the current practice, as well as for recommending us to adopt an intermediate approach, in order to assess the set of rules of our voting procedure from as many angles as required, and to consider the input of fellow States Parties and the Technical Secretariat, in particular the legal department.

Brazil supports the establishment of a consultation mechanism aiming at a thorough examination of the issue and weighing all its implications. We lean towards an open-ended WG.

We furthermore suggest taking the decision about this initiative during the CSP-29, and agreeing to review this matter and take appropriate measures by consensus within one year's time.

Thank you.