



## **BRAZIL — National 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**

*The Hague, 25 – 29 November 2024*

Mr. Chairperson,

Brazil would like to express its gratitude for the commendable work done by Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, of Pakistan, ahead of the 28th Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and to present our full support for Ambassador Almir Šahović, of Bosnia and Herzegovina, who now takes up the important role of guiding the 29<sup>th</sup> Conference.

I take this opportunity to greet the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, the Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Odette Melono, as well as the staff of the Technical Secretariat.

As we have reached the final destruction of the remaining declared stockpiles of chemical weapons, it is utterly disturbing to witness the possible re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons as the reports of the Technical Secretariat have indicated. The role of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW is invaluable in shedding light on these incidents, while these efforts require retaining and continuously improving the Secretariat's capacities, a constant development which has our support, in line with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The Convention is an agreed body of regulations that confers legitimacy to the OPCW and serves as guarantee of the evidence-based nature of the decisions made by State Parties. The Convention is therefore a fundamental code that ensures rigor, transparency and impartiality when addressing violations of international law involving the use of chemical weapons.

It is that essential need for technical soundness and impartiality what Brazil has tirelessly stressed regarding the reports of the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We continue to advocate the necessity of coordinated and mutual cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab

Republic, in order to secure the full implementation of the Convention and to provide the necessary basis for the UN Security Council in its unique responsibility to determine the accountability of perpetrators.

Brazil reiterates, here and in all fora, its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use or threat of use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me, once again, to underscore the technical character of the CWC, a fundamental attribute that should leave very little room for political divergence within the OPCW. Brazil, therefore, urges all States Parties to bear this in mind during the election of Member States to membership in the Executive Council, given that rule 23 of article VIII was drafted taking into account the significance of a national chemical industry in each region. That technical, plain and undeniable fact is crucial for the policy making process in our Organization. Reason and trust should prevail in the dialogue among all States Parties, for our most important consensus will always be that we are all willing to go to great lengths in order to rid our world of chemical weapons, now and for generations to come.

In this spirit of mutual confidence and unity in which we join hope and hard work, let us turn our minds to how shared knowledge in science and technology can take us further.

Brazil has contributed actively to the OPCW's efforts in this field by sponsoring participants in the Associate Programme, by hosting courses and seminars in several areas, and by engaging in the Mentorship and Partnership Programme, mainly with countries in Africa and in Latin America and the Caribbean, and through the engagement of its Chemical Analysis Laboratory (LAQ) of the Technological Centre of the Brazilian Army (CTEx).

Allow me to underline that this laboratory has been able to maintain its designated status, being the only one of this kind in Latin America and the Caribbean and only one of the two in the Southern Hemisphere. Our lab is able to perform off-site analyses of authentic environmental samples collected during OPCW deployments, thus being integrated in the OPCW network.

In addition, our lab has reached important milestones, including being the evaluator of the OPCW 56<sup>th</sup> official proficiency test and participating in the OPCW first trial biotoxins proficiency test. Such accomplishments highlight the expertise and capacity developed over the years. The

LAQ is well positioned today to help others in the region and beyond to achieve the coveted OPCW designation.

In that regard, I would like to mention the training course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean, held in Rio de Janeiro earlier this month. Needless to say, Brazil has great expectations for the CHEMEX GRULAC and we count on the support of the Secretariat and fellow States Parties to make it come through in 2025.

Another critical area of expertise to consider and study is artificial intelligence and emerging technologies, which pose both risks and opportunities to the OPCW, concerning the use of chemical material. Brazil has participated in the global conference on AI in CWC implementation, held in Morocco last October, and is eager to engage in international cooperation and to exchange knowledge and perspectives on this new technological frontier.

It is also cooperation in science and technology by means of international capacity-building and training activities of the OPCW that will enable a widening of the geographical pool for staffing of the Technical Secretariat, whilst securing the highest standards of efficiency and competence. We would like to underline the importance that Brazil assigns to geographical representation within the Technical Secretariat, taking into account gender balance and diversity, and encouraging non-state parties to accede to the CWC as soon as possible.

Brazil actively supports the OPCW by regularly submitting experts and officials as candidates to positions opened in the Technical Secretariat. As one of the largest state parties hosting article VI inspections, Brazil is proud of its full cooperation with OPCW on those activities, which attests to its commitment to the implementation of the CWC and to the peaceful uses of chemistry. Finally, Brazil has been traditionally supportive of OPCW programme and budget proposals, in the understanding that the OPCW is constantly making efforts towards more economy and efficiency in the administration of resources.

In all endeavours ahead, Brazil stands ready to work with the OPCW in our collective mission of fully implementing the Convention, fostering international cooperation and assistance, preserving the technical nature of the organization and promoting a consensus-based decision-making process.

Thank you.