



## *The Permanent Representation of Italy to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons*

CSP29

### **12. Election of members States to membership in the Executive Council.**

#### Italian statement

*Mr. Chair,*

*Yesterday, we listened carefully to a delegation's reference to the decision taken by the Conference of States Parties in 2017 regarding elections in the GRULAC group. On that occasion, it was needed to find an interpretation of the voting procedures in order to proceed, as there were no precedents available to refer to.*

*However, today the situation is deeply different: at least two ballots have already been held using the current procedure, with the consensus of the States Parties. This shows that the current system has been accepted and is operational, making an immediate revision of the voting methods less urgent.*

*Furthermore, we would like to note that the proposal is not on the agenda of the current conference. The African non-paper was submitted only a few days before the start of the CSP, making proper analysis or prior consultation impossible.*

*The issue raises significant implications for the governance and functioning of the OPCW. For this reason, a deep and shared review, involving all Capitals, is needed to ensure responsible and informed decision-making.*

*Finally, the Conference is now nearing its conclusion, and we consider it impractical, as well as inappropriate, to take decisions on such a complex issue without a prior in-depth discussion seeking consensus among the States Parties.*

*Considering all these, Italy fully supports the Chair in his decision to postpone the discussion and decision on this issue to a later stage, to ensure the time required for a careful and shared assessment.*

*We reiterate that Italy is open to any solution that ensures transparency, inclusiveness and active participation of all States Parties, which are fundamental principles for the functioning of the OPCW.*

*We thank all delegations for their understanding and cooperation on this important issue and renew our commitment to a constructive dialogue in the appropriate fora.*

*Thank you, Mr. Chair.*