

Statement of the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania at the twenty-ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the OPCW

-Mr. President,

-Mr. Director-General of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons,

-Your Excellencies,

-Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I am pleased to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Almir Šahović on his election to preside this session and wish him every success. I also thank his predecessor, the Ambassador of Pakistan, for his professional stewardship of the previous session.

In particular, I express my appreciation and thanks to Mr. Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report and for the outstanding work he has been doing, with great efficiency, since his appointment to head the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

- Your Excellencies,

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to take this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment and demand of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania to the fair application of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention in order to strengthen international cooperation, particularly with regard to the exchange of scientific information and equipment for the production and use of chemicals for peaceful purposes and to take deterrent action and strict sanctions against all those violating the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this regard, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons against Palestinian citizens in the occupied territories and calls on the Organization to investigate flagrant violations of the Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Palestine in order to take the sanctions provided for against the perpetrators.

In this context, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania expresses the hope that cooperation between the Organization and the African continent will be strengthened within the

framework of the "Africa Programme" for the rationale of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and meeting Africa's needs with regard to chemical security, safety and development. In pursuit of this objective, the "Africa Programme" should continue to be supported and developed on a basis that takes into account the challenges facing the African continent.

-Your Excellencies,

- Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is no doubt that the efforts we do together require us, first and foremost, to preserve the reputation and credibility of the OPCW, so that the objectives we pursue remain objectives that unify and do not differentiate.

It is therefore urgent to reconsider the Organization's current voting method in order to avoid the unfairness and disagreements it generates by forcing States to vote in a manner that is contrary to the principles of democracy, and rather perpetuates hegemony and dictatorship. The motive for demanding a correction of the Organization's voting method is only to promote democratic practice in the world and in Western States in particular.

Please record this statement on the Catalyst platform and the organization's website.

Thank you.