



**Statement by Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons during the 106th Session of the Executive Council.**

**(The Hague, July 9, 2024).**

Mr. President, Mr. Director-General, distinguished representatives,

Mexico wishes the presidency of this Council a successful conduction of the works of its one hundred and sixth session.

Mexico has taken note with great interest of the statement made by the Director-General, which clearly reflects the challenges facing the Organization, as well as the many opportunities that we must take advantage of to achieve the purpose of the Convention and, above all, to maintain its validity.

My delegation recognizes the professionalism and commitment shown by the Technical Secretariat in carrying out its mandate during the intersessional period.

Mexico is also grateful to the Vice-Presidents of the Council, as well as to the various facilitators, for the work they have done to make progress in the fulfilment of the regular and outstanding issues on the Executive Board's agenda.

My country reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons. Its use anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstance is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and could constitute a war crime.

Mexico has always advocated the unrestricted application of international law regarding the use of chemical weapons.

We firmly believe that those responsible must be held accountable. The use of chemical weapons is a direct affront to the international community that must not go unpunished.

Mexico calls on the States Parties currently engaged in armed conflict to adhere to their international commitments and to comply, without any reservations, with their obligations and the prohibitions clearly established in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mexico has noted with concern the allegations relating to the alleged use of anti-riot control agents and other substances prohibited by the Convention, particularly in Ukraine. We request the Technical Secretariat to continue to closely monitor the situation and to proceed, when the situation warrants it, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention.

For more than a decade, the Organization's technical teams have been working to clarify all outstanding issues relating to the initial and subsequent declarations submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mexico calls on Syria to comply as soon as possible with its obligations, with the decisions of the Policy-Making Organs and the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Mexico notes with interest the progress made in the destruction of old chemical weapons and, in particular, of abandoned chemical weapons on Chinese territory. We recognize the progress made by Japan and China in this process and hope that they will be able to conclude it within the timeframes agreed upon by both sides.

My delegation will continue to work with the Technical Secretariat and the membership to collaborate on everything that contributes to improving the verification regime for the chemical industry.

Mr. President, Mexico is fully aware of the challenges facing all States parties in the period following the destruction of chemical stockpiles.

In this area, we must continue to join efforts to prevent non-State actors from gaining access to chemicals or technologies with which they could develop chemical weapons.

We acknowledge the work that has been carried out in this regard within the framework of the Open-ended Working Group on Terrorism under the leadership of Ambassador Vuzi Vuzi Mandosela.

We believe that table-top exercises and simulations are essential to exchange experiences, good practices and share knowledge between authorities and experts working to prevent this phenomenon and address its consequences. Mexico reiterates its commitment to work with the Secretariat and the States Parties of our region to carry out a successful Chemex GRULAC exercise.

My delegation has followed very closely the briefings shared with us by the Scientific Advisory Board and the Advisory Body on Education and Dissemination.

We welcome the document on artificial intelligence prepared by the Technical Secretariat and congratulate Germany and Morocco for convening conferences of international experts that will contribute to advancing the discussion of this important topic.

Similarly, we are optimistic about ABEO's proposal to share the Syllabus of the course designed to promote knowledge about the Organization between the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the OPCW. If all goes according to plan, the first generation of this course will begin their training in the spring of 2025.

Mexico reaffirms its commitment to continue cooperating with the Technical Secretariat to support efforts to strengthen the capacities of States parties, promote the peaceful and safe use of chemistry and contribute to the exchange of knowledge and the training of specialists.

We are pleased to see that the number of women participating in Article X training courses has grown by more than 30 per cent, and we invite States Parties in other regions to continue to promote inclusiveness and the nomination of more women candidates.

My delegation appreciates the facilitation that Germany and Costa Rica are leading to promote greater interaction with civil society.

We value the views of industry, academia, experts and think tanks, among others, and consider that the OPCW's dialogue with these actors is essential to advance the discussion of issues that are highly relevant to the Convention.

Mexico will continue to work with the membership to propose creative solutions that will allow us to reach substantive and long-term solutions on some of the governance issues that interest us all, particularly in the areas of tenure policy, geographic representation, and the mainstreaming of gender equity.

Mr. President, I would like to conclude my statement by reiterating Mexico's commitment to multilateralism. In the current international scenario, dialogue must resume its central role to prevent trust in our institutions from continuing to erode and, above all, for States Parties to find solutions to their differences.

I would be grateful if this statement could be considered as a public and official document of this meeting and published on the Catalyst platform and on the official OPCW website.

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