

**-courtesy translation-**

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OPCW at the 29 Session of the Conference of States Parties under Agenda Item 8.**

**(The Hague, November 25th, 2024).**

Mr. President,

Mexico expresses its deep concern over the conclusions of the report from the technical assistance visit by the OPCW expert team, which confirms the use of riot control agents in Illinka, Ukraine, in an incident that occurred on September 20, 2024.

This act constitutes a violation of the Convention, which Mexico condemns in the strongest possible terms. The use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a serious violation of international law, which, in some circumstances, includes international humanitarian law and could constitute a war crime.

Mexico makes a strong call to those currently engaged in armed conflicts to adhere to their international commitments in accordance with international law and to fulfill, without any reservations or conditions, their obligations and the prohibitions established in the Convention.

In line with its foreign policy principles, Mexico will continue to prioritize the path of dialogue, negotiation, and cooperation to advance our common goal of eliminating chemical weapons and preventing their resurgence.

Mexico will continue to advocate for multilateralism and the unrestricted application of international law regarding the use of chemical weapons.

Mr. President,

Mexico congratulates Ambassador Almir Šahović of Bosnia and Herzegovina on his election as President of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of States Parties and expresses its recognition to the outgoing President, Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar of Pakistan, for his work during his term.

My delegation has taken note with interest of the opening statement by the Director-General, which addresses the main challenges and opportunities for effectively implementing the Convention.

Regarding the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, we recognize the professionalism and commitment of the Declaration Assessment Team, the

Fact-Finding Mission, and the Investigation and Identification Team in fulfilling their mandates.

We call on Syria to fully cooperate with the OPCW technical teams to clarify issues related to its initial declaration and to outstanding declarations from over a decade ago, as well as to investigate the use of chemical weapons on its territory and identify those responsible for these unlawful acts.

Additionally, Mexico has followed with interest the activities concerning the destruction of old chemical weapons, including those abandoned by Japan in Chinese territory. We have observed the high degree of cooperation between both countries and the challenges their teams face in the recovery and destruction of these weapons. We hope they can complete their destruction program as soon as possible, thereby contributing to a world free of chemical weapons.

Mr. President,

Mexico views progress in discussions on emerging technologies and the challenges related to the implementation of the Convention with optimism. We have been following with interest the conferences in Berlin and Rabat on artificial intelligence and believe it is time to define the actions that States Parties should adopt in the short and medium term to ensure the relevance of the Convention in this new phase and take advantage of the benefits of these advancements.

Nearly five years ago, Mexico became the first country in the Global South to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy, seeking to transform the structures that perpetuate inequality and promote peace and security for all. We acknowledge the work of the Technical Secretariat in consolidating gender equality in all its programs within the Organization.

Mr. President,

I conclude my statement by emphasizing the importance of granting the Director-General the flexibility to rehire a limited number of staff with the necessary skills and institutional memory to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention. Mexico and New Zealand will continue to work to have this matter considered in the next session of the Executive Council.

Thank you very much.