



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Nineteenth Session  
1 – 5 December 2014

C-19/NAT.49  
1 December 2014  
ENGLISH only

**BRAZIL**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PIRAGIBE S. TARRAGÔ  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW AT THE  
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson,

I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you for presiding over this Conference. You may rest assured of my delegation's full support for a successful outcome in our work. I also commend the Director-General who has been performing his duties with great care and competence and is completing the first and very successful year of his second mandate.

The OPCW stands out as the only genuinely multilateral disarmament body with a global responsibility in the international demilitarisation arena. Due to its success, it may soon have to redirect its efforts from the destruction of chemical weapons to the prevention of the reemergence of chemical stocks and the promotion of international cooperation and assistance for the peaceful uses of chemistry. This transition should require our most careful consideration in 2015 and onwards. States Parties should be encouraged to devote more attention to the challenges of the transition process.

The OPCW must continue to evolve in order to guide and govern the chemical disarmament agenda. As pointed out by the Third Review Conference, adjustments of programme priorities, of staff structure, as well as, of institutional capabilities are deemed to be inevitable. They will have to be coupled with supporting efforts to under-resourced countries, revised policies towards new security threats and due attention to the advancements of science and technology. One of our main challenges is to match the great success of the Third Review Conference with meaningful and coordinated results, which will gradually establish a more dynamic platform for the peaceful uses of chemistry that we have collectively envisaged in 2013.

My country is aligning its practices with these new times. We are working to establish the first regional center for assistance and protection in the Latin American and Caribbean region, which should narrow the gap between the scope of the Convention and its impact on our region. We are enhancing our South-South cooperation, under the expectation of offering more training courses in 2015, one for GRULAC, and another for Portuguese-speaking countries. We have also seriously engaged in the Partnership Programme, to assist Sao Tome and Principe to develop the required capacity to implement the Convention. These are all part of a broader policy mix for an overarching implementation of the Convention, in line with our traditional commitment to peace.



In September 2013, against the backdrop of an extraordinary turnout, the Executive Council approved the decision for the elimination of the Syrian chemical stockpile, and the United Nations Security Council unanimously welcomed and reinforced its terms. We are now more familiarised with the practical necessities involved with the implementation of those historical agreements. So it would seem fit to revisit them from a strategic perspective in attempt to draw some lessons for the future of this Organisation.

The consensus achieved in launching the Syrian programme has involved compromise on the part of many States Parties to the benefit of increased world security, confidence-building and international law. The goal was to be as broad as possible about the destruction obligations, to guarantee that the new State Party would renounce its chemical weapons capabilities under the stringent verification regime built into the Convention. Co-operation was essential in order to meet these obligations. The implementation of these mandates was expected to generate confidence-building.

We should congratulate ourselves for having succeeded in making the dismantlement actions advance with relative speed, which culminated with the final shipment of the toxic chemicals. But somewhat overshadowing this major accomplishment, bilateral concerns on the accuracy of the initial declaration have turned in a multilateral monitoring exercise. We should be mindful that over-zeal or simply lack of trust in addressing the issues arisen from the initial declaration do not undermine the programme's success. The Council has indulged in renewing doubts on the completeness of the programme and on exposing as-yet-unreconciled differences on what might be reasonably expected for the post-removal phase.

The fact that the destruction of the production facilities will take longer than expected, and that the initial declaration might have gaps, need not to be a source of confidence-sapping doubts about compliance, or about specific procedures of this initiative. The Syrian programme is greater than our different views. It is the result of a complex undertaking that had to embrace competing interests. For this reason, it is not flawless in providing total assurance against a few issues, but it is a clear proof that the key stakeholders place real priority on its achievements. And we should not lose sight of that.

The annual Conference of the States Parties is a major event that allows us to draw attention to the most compelling causes of the Convention, in the presence of observer States, the chemical industry and the civil society. My delegation would like to uphold this venue to underscore the goal of universal ratification of this major treaty. We regret that no adherences were reported this year and we believe that with only six remaining States not Party our efforts will depend on a well-tailored approach to awake their willingness to join the Convention. In our view, these efforts could also be boosted by the convening of a regional conference on the establishment of a Weapons of Mass Destruction free-zone in the Middle East, as proposed by the Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT). We hope that this objective could still be achievable for the benefit of world peace and security.

Thank you.