



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Eighth Session

5 – 7 October 2021

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ENGLISH only

**SLOVENIA**

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION  
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SANJA ŠTIGLIC  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 16**

Mr Chairperson,

I have asked to take the floor to speak on behalf of the European Union.

We fully support the decision by the Executive Council recommending that the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Sixth Session renew the appointment of the Director-General, Fernando Arias, for one further term of four years.

We take this opportunity to commend the leadership of OPCW Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, at the helm of the Technical Secretariat since 2018. The Director-General's successful tenure is characterised by his dedication to work and serving the States Parties. We appreciate the efforts to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") under exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic, as well as the objectivity, impartiality, and professionalism demonstrated by the Technical Secretariat under the leadership of Director-General Arias.

The European Union therefore lends its full support to the reappointment of Ambassador Arias for a second term in office. Taking into account the many challenges facing the Convention as well as the need for continuity of effort in its implementation, the European Union considers that Ambassador Arias is the most qualified person to lead the Organisation.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

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