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KENYA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JUDITH SIJENY OF THE PERMANENT
REPRESENTATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen

Prior to making my remarks, on behalf of the Kenyan delegation I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you, H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We are confident in your competent leadership to expertly steer the sessions of the Executive Council to a successful conclusion.

Further, I extend my delegation's appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on the commendable work that she did during her tenure as the Chairperson of the Executive Council.

The delegation of the Republic of Kenya aligns itself with the statements of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (the African Group), as well as that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, that were delivered by the respective coordinators, H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela, Permanent Representative of the Republic of South Africa, and H.E. Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Chairperson, allow me to express our gratitude to Director-General Fernando Arias for his statement and to his exceptional team at the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) for their continued briefings and updates on the work being done towards the elimination of chemical weapons and the threat posed by them.

Kenya remains vehemently committed to the comprehensive implementation of the Chemical Weapon Convention (the Convention) and its objectives, in order to prohibit the misuse of all toxic chemicals, regardless of their type or origin. To this end, Kenya believes in the equal implementation of the four pillars of the Convention.

Kenya recognises and appreciates the work being done by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA), particularly on the drive to ensure a greater number of African



States Parties have national implementation legislation for the Convention. Kenya is making progress on domestication of the Convention and we look forward to working closely with the Secretariat through mechanisms that will help in the sensitisation of critical decision makers, with the view of simplifying and fast tracking the process of domestication.

The OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa is a success story of the implementation of ICA programmes. We are making progress in building a critical mass of skilled professionals that will continue to support the realisation of the objectives of the Convention now and into the future. In this regard Kenya looks forward to hosting the course on medical aspects against chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals from 3-7 October 2022, and the education training for youth on the peaceful uses of chemistry in the year 2023.

As we move forward to the sixth phase of the Africa Programme, we need to build on the success of the past phases and also learn from the challenges. We need to continuously seek opportunities for ensuring that the programmes and projects are responsive to the needs of the region. We welcome the effort made by the Secretariat to consult with the national authorities and States Parties of the African Group with a view to identifying the priorities for the sixth phase. We further welcome that there will be more attention to developing preventive, protective and response measures against chemical terrorism. Kenya as a member of the Steering Committee for the Africa Programme and as an active participant in ICA activities commits to continue engaging in future consultations on the programme.

The Kenyan delegation would like to commend and continue to encourage the Secretariat to maintain its engagements with the continental body, the African Union and also with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its quest for comprehensive implementation of the Convention. The RECs form critical peace and security infrastructures of the African Union, which can and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the Convention.

Kenya welcomes the consultative approach taken by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference, Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia. The engagement with regional groups offers a unique opportunity to appreciate regional priorities as well perspectives on the issues that will feature on the agenda of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fifth Review Conference). We look forward to this spirit of open, transparent, and inclusive consultations being upheld throughout the work of the Open-Ended Working Group as it is a prerequisite for a successful review conference.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to all the States Parties, the Director-General and the Secretariat for continuing with their efforts that are geared towards making our collective objective of a world free of chemical weapons a reality. We believe that these efforts will continue to inform the Organisation's future priorities in regard to cooperation and assistance, capacity building and the promotion of the role of chemistry for sustainable development.

Thank you for your attention and I would like to request that this statement be published on the OPCW public website and external server as an official document of this session.