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**ALGERIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SALIMA ABDELHAK  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION  
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to reiterate my congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as Chairperson of the 101st Session of the Executive Council (“the Council”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). We are confident that he will steer the work of the session to a successful conclusion. We would like also to assure him of our full support and willingness to contribute to the success of the Council’s work.

I wish also to express my thanks to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his report and his unfailing efforts in carrying out his duties to help the Organisation to achieve its objectives.

I cannot omit to convey my appreciation to the staff of the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) for their efficiency in organising the sessions of the OPCW policy-making organs and their dedication to ensure the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement of H.E. Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the OPCW, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Convention and China, and with the statement of H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Philemon Madonsela, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the OCPW, on behalf of the Africa Group.

The OPCW celebrates this year 25 years of work and outstanding achievements, especially in the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles that should come to an end in 2023, despite the several constraints and challenges the Organisation had to overcome.

The Organisation could also manage the impact that the COVID-19 world pandemic has had on its activities by developing innovative methods of work that have ensured business continuity, and more than that, have implemented new methods with satisfactory results. We do welcome the gradual return to regular mode of work and look forward to the full resumption



of OPCW in-person sessions, meetings, and activities. We do believe that the hybrid mode of work is likely to ensure more efficiency in our endeavour.

Today, we are increasingly aware of the new threats our Organisation faces such as chemical terrorism, transnational crime and illicit transit of chemical weapons, and toxic chemical products. The activities of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism have enabled us to gain a better understanding of these threats, and we do need to fight them through appropriate response strategies to be developed by the OPCW.

The Fifth Review Conference scheduled for next May 2023 will constitute an opportunity to conceive a road map that builds on what is already acquired, adjust incoherences, adapt to new realities and innovate in order to achieve objectives, and set a new vision of the Convention. This will ultimately ensure the central role of the Convention in the disarmament architecture and its contribution to international peace and security.

We welcome, in this regard, the work already undertaken within the Open-Ended Working Group in Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference with the support of the Secretariat, as well as the active participation of the States Parties through national and regional positions on the important topics of verification and international cooperation and assistance. We commend the continuous and regular consultation process engaged with regional groups by the Chair of the Group, H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing, Permanent Representative of Estonia to the OPCW.

Being a member of the Bureau of the Open-Ended Working Group in Preparation for the Fifth Review Conference, I would like to reiterate my support and the full willingness of my delegation to contribute to the success of its endeavour and to bring the work of the Review Conference to a successful outcome.

Algeria is strongly attached to the Convention's principles and goals. This is reflected in Algerian national authorities' and stakeholders' full engagement for the implementation of the Convention at the national level. They continue to make relentless efforts to build on the experience they have capitalised and to update their expertise and abilities through the active contribution to OPCW seminars, training courses, and capacity-building activities, covering different topics—even during the COVID-19 pandemic—as both participants and co-organisers.

In this regard, we reiterate our full commitment to concretise, in collaboration with the Secretariat, before the end of the current year, the annual “training course on conducting sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment for African States” to be held in Algiers.

Algeria is one of the countries that strongly believes in South-South cooperation and makes itself available to share with countries in our region and subregion good practises and the achievements of its national authorities within the framework of the implementation of the Convention. It is in this context, that our National Authority contributed to the realisation of mentorship visits for the benefit of representatives from Niger and Burkina Faso in 2012 and 2014, respectively, in the framework of the OPCW Mentorship Programme.

Algeria would like to express its appreciation about the progress made in the implementation of the work plan of the twinning project between the Algerian Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie and the German Research Institute for Protective Technologies and Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Protection that has started in 2020, in

collaboration with the Secretariat. We look forward to concluding the MoU relevant to this project for the Algerian Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology of the National Gendarmerie to join the OPCW designated laboratories network.

We consider the initiative of the OPCW to create regional centres of excellence on the African continent likely to contribute to strengthening cooperation between African countries and improving the performance of their national entities. My country has supported it since its launch, and I seize this opportunity to reiterate Algeria's full willingness to host the centre for the North Africa and Sahel region.

Along the same lines, Algeria looks forward to the 2023 completion of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre), considering its essential role for Convention implementation, particularly in terms of capacity building and technical support to be provided to developing countries, especially in Africa. My country's financial voluntary contribution to funding this project demonstrates its support to the Centre and its desire to contribute to the success of its activities.

We do believe that we need, now more than ever, to preserve the spirit of consensus and cooperation that has characterised OPCW work since its creation in order to move forward and to overcome the new threats. Indeed, the absence of consensus and polarisation may distance our Organisation from its technical character.

Regarding the Syrian chemical weapons programme, we encourage the continuation of constructive and productive cooperation between the Syrian authorities and the Secretariat.

Finally, my delegation believes that the guiding principles behind our collective action should be the implementation of the Convention and its objectives in a way that all parties and regions could benefit from its advantages. Our efforts must also be focused on the peaceful use of chemistry and on the achievement of the development goals of our countries, which should be among the OPCW priorities in the future.

Strengthening international cooperation and assistance programmes, and the exchange of experiences are all key goals. In this connection, we welcome the inclusion, at the initiative of the African Group, of a recommendation in the decision on the OPCW biennial Programme and Budget for 2022–2023, adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Twenty-Sixth Session, inviting the States Parties and the Secretariat to work together to ensure complete and effective implementation of cooperation programmes by considering appropriate measures, including the retention of unspent funds for cooperation programmes in a special fund.

We consider that particular attention must be paid to the African continent and to the capacity building of its national entities according to their needs and priorities. In this regard, I would like to underscore the importance of consolidating the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention. We consider that this Programme should be sustained and reinforced through the allocation of sufficient financial resources at regular and predictable levels in the Organisation's regular budget. We welcome the preparations for its sixth phase that will start in the beginning of 2023, taking into account the survey on needs assessment, in which Algeria contributed, to define the main priorities and the key activities to be retained for the next period. We commend the efforts made by the Secretariat in preparing the concept and planning of this phase, and we express our full willingness and readiness to continue contributing to its conception and implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to call for undertaking concrete measures, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, to promote the presence of African candidates within the bodies of the Organisation, and especially in positions within the Secretariat, in order to reach the expected levels.

Finally, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and be published on the OPCW's external and public website.

Thank you.

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