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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAMAL JAMA AL-MUSHARAKH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Your Excellency, the Director-General of the OPCW,
Excellencies, Heads of delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Since this is my first participation in the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as a Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates, allow me to congratulate you, Excellency Vusimuzi Madonsela, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa, on your election as Chairperson of the current session of the Conference. I wish you every success in your mission. I would also like to thank His Excellency Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway, the Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his invaluable efforts, as well as to the team of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for their continuous efforts to strengthen the role of the OPCW and achieve the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation for the efforts made by the Bureau and the staff of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in preparation for this Conference. We wish this and all upcoming sessions a successful outcome.

In light of the continuous transformations and increasing challenges that the international community is witnessing, the State of the United Arab Emirates believes in the necessity of adhering to the relevant treaties and effective participation in the relevant international fora. In this regard, the State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention and international law.

The State of the United Arab Emirates is keen on implementing its obligations under the Convention and firmly believes in the objectives of the Convention, through which the States Parties affirmed their eagerness to work for the achievement of effective progress towards



complete disarmament and the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction for a safe life for all mankind. The destruction of 99% of declared chemical weapons is a major step towards achieving a world free of chemical weapons. It must be preserved and built on in order to ensure a safe and promising future for the coming generations.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has carefully reviewed the reports by the Director-General on the progress in the elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, and we hope that the cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic will continue on all issues. We stress the importance of constructive and continuous dialogue between the OPCW and Syria, and we particularly underscore the need to ensure that chemical weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorist groups, which will not hesitate to use them for dangerous purposes. We also highlight the danger of chemical weapons to regional and international security.

In this regard, the State of the United Arab Emirates asserts that the development, transfer, and use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances is completely prohibited under international law, whether inside or outside Syria, because it poses a serious threat to regional and international security and stability.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation for the efforts and reports of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, chaired by His Excellency the Ambassador of South Africa, and condemns the use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups. It also expresses its deep concern regarding the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by these groups and supports the Technical Secretariat's investigations in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention. In this regard, we must redouble our efforts towards limiting the spread of this scourge.

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention this year and continue to prepare for the Fifth Review Conference, my delegation commends the preparatory work currently undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference under the leadership of His Excellency Ambassador Lauri Kuusing, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the OPCW. In light of the efforts, meetings, discussions, and briefing with the regional groups, we emphasise the importance of the principle of consensus and the need to make decisions by consultation and consensus. We also stress the need to identify challenges and reflect deeply on how to address potential chemical threats in the future.

The State of the United Arab Emirates supports the Draft Decision on the Manner of Appointment of the External Auditor of the OPCW. It also supports the revised budget for 2023 and asserts that there are unforeseen circumstances that greatly threaten the key activities of the OPCW and justify the amendment of the budget. We affirm that the amendment of the budget for 2023 aims to respond to the impact of the unexpected high inflation and the requirements for carrying out the mandate of the OPCW.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has reviewed the reports by the Director-General of the OPCW regarding the implementation of Article VII of the Convention and affirms its commitment to fulfilling its obligations under Article VII. It also affirms its keenness to cooperate with other States Parties in this regard, in order to implement the Convention at the national level and strengthen national capacities.

Furthermore, the State of the United Arab Emirates emphasises the need to enhance the capabilities of the Technical Secretariat to respond to requests for assistance under Article X of the Convention, support capacity-building programmes for States Parties, and help support the Technical Secretariat's preparedness to provide appropriate, effective, and timely assistance.

The State of the United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention and stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation among States Parties in the areas of economic and technological development, and chemical activities for non-prohibited purposes, and for the peaceful uses of chemical technology.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention is critical to achieving its objectives. The OPCW's efforts and constant endeavours to ensure its universality constitute an effective contribution to strengthening international peace and security.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has adopted national legislation related to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Permanent Representation of the United Arab Emirates in The Hague, the Emirati National Authority, and the relevant authorities of the United Arab Emirates are working to implement the Convention at the national level.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms its keenness to help achieve the objectives of the OPCW, implement the provisions of the Convention, and support international cooperation and assistance programmes. It was pleased to host the Fifteenth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of Asian States Parties. Moreover, the Emirati National Authority, with the participation of OPCW experts, organised a regional workshop entitled "Chemical Safety and Security." The State of the United Arab Emirates helped support the decisions aimed at achieving the goals of the Organisation and contributed to the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

Additionally, the United Arab Emirates, in cooperation with the OPCW, will host a workshop on chemical safety and security for Asian Member States of the Organisation. The workshop is scheduled to take place in Dubai in February 2023 and is one of the OPCW's activities aimed at promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its commitment to cooperating with the OPCW and the States Parties, in order to achieve the goals of the OPCW and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. It renews its commitment to the OPCW and its determination to fulfil its obligations under the Convention, in the interest of international peace and security.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the external server and public website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.