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**AZERBAIJAN**

**STATEMENT BY MR GAYA MAMMADOV HEAD OF DEPARTMENT FOR  
POLITICO-MILITARY ISSUES OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF  
THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

In addition to the statement that we circulated on behalf of the Members of the Non-Alignment Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, we would like to make the following national statement:

First of all, we congratulate you, H.E. Ambassador Madonsela, on your election as the Chairperson of this session of the Conference. We would like to reiterate the commitment of Azerbaijan to the purposes and principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

Azerbaijan has a traditionally strong petrochemical industry, which enables us to get closely involved in international cooperation on the peaceful uses of chemical technology. Azerbaijan sees a large potential for the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in facilitating international cooperation in peaceful uses of chemistry. In this regard, we support expansion of the role of the Technical Secretariat in capacity building.

Azerbaijan has always been actively engaged in dialogue and cooperation with the Organisation and cooperates bilaterally with the Technical Secretariat. In the past, we hosted several events of the Organisation aimed at capacity building and cooperation. Currently, we are in contact with the Technical Secretariat for further cooperative activities in this field.

While we can take stock of impressive achievements that States Parties have attained over the past decades on the implementation of the Convention, we also recognise that certain tasks remain - to ensure that chemical weapons are eliminated once and for all. Azerbaijan supports the universalisation of the Convention and echoes calls in this regard.

Rapid changes and development in chemical science and technology necessitate equipping the Organisation with proper capabilities so that it is up to date to follow and cope with those changes.

Mr Chairperson, complying with the norms and principles of international law is a fundamental issue that has a significant impact on implementation of the Convention. By liberating its territories from foreign occupation two years ago, Azerbaijan has not only ensured the respect



for norms and principles of international law, but also—by restoring control over its borders—eliminated the risk of illicit trafficking in components of weapons of mass destruction and thereby contributed to the purposes of the Convention.

In conclusion, we would like to commend the role of the Technical Secretariat under the able leadership of Director-General Fernando Arias on the implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.

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