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**MEXICO**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ANTONIO ZABALGOITIA TREJO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES TO THE  
OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL  
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,  
Distinguished representatives and colleagues,

The delegation of Mexico wishes you every success, Mr Chairperson, in conducting this Review Conference. Mexico hopes that we can agree on a document that reflects an overview of the achievements, outstanding issues, and the Organisation's priorities for the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the next five years.

My delegation acknowledges and appreciates the important work carried out by the Estonian Ambassador, Lauri Kuusing, who oversaw the work of the Open-Ended Working Group in a pluralistic, transparent, and constructive manner, which has been reflected in the final draft document that is in the hands of the Conference Chairperson.

Mexico also wishes to express its recognition of the work carried out by the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat, since the last Review Conference. The recent inauguration of the Chemistry and Technology Centre is an example of its important legacy and marks the beginning of a new stage in the life of our Organisation.

Once again, Mexico strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by any actor, anywhere, and under any circumstances. The use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights.

We recognise the efforts of the Technical Secretariat and of some States Parties that have worked so that States that have not yet done so will accede to the Convention, in order to achieve the objective of universal implementation.

Twenty-six years ago, we decided to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, which has allowed the OPCW to occupy a privileged position in the architecture of international disarmament. This is a fact that we should be proud of, and therefore we must continue to work not only to maintain what we have already achieved, but to further strengthen the verification regime.

Within a few months, the OPCW will reach a major milestone with the destruction of the last declared stockpiles of chemical weapons. We hope that this goal can also be met for abandoned



chemical weapons and, through increased voluntary cooperation, sea-dumped weapons, which pose a latent danger to all our countries.

Regarding verification, Mexico supports the recommendations that various States Parties have formulated to make the inspection regime fairer, as well as more equitable and efficient.

At the same time, Mexico wishes to renew its call to Syria to fully cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and its Declaration Assessment Team, the Investigation and Identification Team, and the Fact-Finding Mission in order to answer outstanding questions and clarify the inconsistencies in its initial declaration.

We welcome the reports and recommendations that the Scientific Advisory Board and the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach have presented to the States Parties over the years. Mexico considers that its recommendations should have greater weight, as well as that we should also listen to other voices, particularly from civil society, as they can undoubtedly help enrich our deliberations in different areas.

In this new phase for the Organisation, in addition to strengthening cooperation and scientific and technological exchanges to promote training and the peaceful use of chemistry, we cannot lose sight of the challenges and threats posed by advances in this field, especially due to the danger represented by the possibility that they could fall into the hands of non-State actors.

The Feminist Foreign Policy of Mexico values the work of the Technical Secretariat aimed at making gender equity a reality in the Organisation's administrative structure. This is a cross-cutting issue that we must not lose sight of and that we must continue to strengthen.

In this same way, we will actively promote actions that improve other aspects of the governance of our Organisation. Just as it is desirable to act with flexibility to renew the talent and experience of those who represent the backbone of the Organisation, it is also essential to achieve a balance in geographical representation within the OPCW's administrative structure.

Mexico will actively participate in the Working Group that will be established to achieve this objective, in addition to presenting other concrete initiatives, such as the diploma course between the National Autonomous University of Mexico and the OPCW to promote the participation of more and better candidates, in transparent and impartial selection processes.

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation hopes that we can provide the Organisation with a roadmap that defines the Organisation's strategic objectives and mandates for the next five years. We must recover the spirit of cooperation to achieve the complete and definitive elimination of chemical weapons.

I kindly request that this statement be considered a public and official document of this session and published on the Catalyst platform and the OPCW's official website.

Thank you very much.