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سفارة الجزائر بلاهاي

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak Permanent
Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria to the
OPCW at the 103rd session of the Executive Council
11- 14 July 2023**

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

At the outset, I would like, to welcome H.E. Ambassador Lucian Fătu, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to the OPCW, as Chair of this session of the Executive Council. We are confident that he will steer the deliberations of this session to a successful conclusion and would like to reiterate our support to him for the success of the Council's work.

I wish also to express my thanks to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his exhaustive report and commend the efforts of staff of the Technical Secretariat to ensure under his leadership the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement of H.E. Ambassador Rahman Mustafayev, 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 Francis Danti Kotia, the Permanent Representative of Ghana to the OCPW, on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chairperson,

Today, we have convened for the 103rd session of the Executive Council, which is our first meeting following the 5th Review Conference (Rev Conf). This conference was a successful endeavor that thoroughly evaluated the operations of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and identified new perspectives

and appropriate measures to enhance the organization.

While it is true that we did not reach a final document due to divergences that could maybe have been resolved with more time, the efforts of the States Parties reflected their CWC ownership and their commitment towards its provisions. The dialogue that took place during the preparatory process of the conference was more than valuable as it brought us together on several areas.

Our prevailing sentiment at the 5th Review Conference was the need to continue working on the areas of agreement. We can take advantage of this session to make progress on some of these aspects such as geographic representation and tenure policy. We are of a view that the language contained in the draft outcome document of the Review Conference constitutes a good basis to finalize our discussions and take action on both issues.

Mr. Chairperson

Allow me to congratulate the US through the Under-secretary Bonnie Jenkin for the completion of destroying all declared chemical weapons stockpiles. It represents indeed a historic success of multilateralism in the field of disarmament to quote the DG of OPCW and we should be encouraged by this achievement to enable CWC remain a central pillar of the disarmament framework and continue making a significant contribution to international peace and security.

It is imperative that we continue to evolve and adapt our organization to effectively tackle new realities, such as the reemergence of chemical weapons and the threat of chemical terrorism. These emerging challenges have been identified by the Rev Conf to be priorities for the future actions of OPCW. We can rely in this endeavour on inter alia the (CCT) which is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the implementation of CWC taking into account the States Parties priorities and requirements.

Mr. Chairperson

Africa Program as a commendable example of best practices within the (ICA) framework, contributes also to the optimal execution of CWC objectives at national and regional levels. Under this program, the Secretariat is actively preparing in collaboration with Algeria and other partners for CHEMEX Africa 2023 scheduled to occur in Algiers in late September and early October with the objective to enhance African States Parties responsive capacities to chemical emergencies, including Chemical incidents perpetrated by terrorist groups or non-state actors.

CHEMEX Africa 2023 will bring together not only African States parties but also African States Parties with international partners who are providing both financial support and technical expertise. Canada has taken the lead in funding

this project, Czech Republic, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom will provide supervisors. Canada, France, the United States and potentially other Nations will also participate with observers team, contributing to the overall effectiveness and knowledge sharing of the exercise.

We are convinced that the extensive cooperation and collaboration among various stakeholders across the different segments of CHEMEX Africa will **provide insights to** the table top exercise to be held within the framework of the Working Group on terrorism which Algeria has supported and is looking forward for its organisation in November.

Mr Chaiperson

Africa Program holds the potential to facilitate South-South cooperation, much like the regional centres of excellence for assistance and protection against chemical weapons, as well as OPCW-designated laboratories. It is crucial for Africa to establish Centres of Excellence throughout the region, including in North Africa and the Sahel sub-region, which face particular challenges related to chemical terrorism. African laboratories should also actively participate in the OPCW-designated laboratory network to enhance their expertise and capabilities.

As a step towards strengthening their laboratory capabilities, Algeria signed a Memorandum of Understanding during the 5th Review Conference. This agreement pertains to an OPCW twinning project between Algerian and German institutes, namely INCC/GN and WIS, with the aim of supporting the INCC/GN in attaining OPCW-designated laboratory status.

All these activities align with Algeria's commitment to consistently support general and comprehensive disarmament, as well as non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction. This commitment is in accordance with Algeria's international obligations and its steadfast stance in favor of International Peace and Security. Algeria remains dedicated to the complete implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the national level and is willing to share its experience and expertise in this area at the regional level.

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.