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SWEDEN

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. MR HANS MAGNUSSON,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWEDEN TO THE OPCW, AT THE
FOURTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the honour and pleasure to speak on behalf of the 27 States Parties that are members of the European Union and the 11 countries that associate themselves with this statement: This comprises candidate countries Croatia*, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and Turkey; potential candidates Albania, Montenegro, and Serbia, which participate in the stabilisation and association process; Iceland and Norway, members of EFTA and the European Economic Area; as well as Georgia, San Marino, and Ukraine.

At the outset, let me first thank the outgoing Chairperson, Mr Minoru Shibuya of Japan, for the excellent way in which he handled last year's Conference. Let me also welcome you to the Chair, Ambassador Verba. We are pleased that a member of the European Union has been given the honour of guiding us through this important meeting. The European Union offers you its full support throughout your tenure.

The European Union would also like to extend a warm welcome to the new States Parties the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, and Lebanon. The addition of four new States Parties, including one declared chemical weapons possessor State, strengthens the OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention. The European Union renews its call on the States that remain outside the Convention to join in our common endeavour to rid the world of chemical weapons.

* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to take part in the stabilisation and association process.



Mr Chairperson,

Twelve years after the entry into force of the Convention, we are approaching the situation where chemical weapons stockpiles in States Parties are a thing of the past. Consequently, as pointed out by the First and Second Review Conferences, the Organisation will soon have to shift its focus from destruction to other aspects of its work. A number of important issues will need to be addressed as we continue down the track towards the implementation of all the provisions of the Convention.

There is no doubt that considerable progress has been made since April 1997. For instance:

- States Parties now represent about 98% of the world's population.
- Only a small number of the States Parties have yet to assign National Authorities responsible for Convention implementation, and more than 5,000 facilities in 78 States Parties were declared in connection with the chemical industry verification regime.
- More than half of the combined declared stocks of chemical weapons have been destroyed, and three possessor States have destroyed all of the chemical weapons they declared to the OPCW.
- Almost all the capacity to produce chemical weapons has been dismantled in the States Parties concerned. Thousands of old and abandoned chemical weapons have been either destroyed or placed under the OPCW verification regime.

However, it is equally clear that major challenges remain to be addressed, and let me give a few examples:

- Sustained and accelerated efforts by the possessor States are required in order to meet the deadlines for destruction of chemical weapons inscribed in the Convention.
- Outstanding initial declarations and required legislation bear witness to the need for improvement with regard to national implementation.
- As pointed out by the Second Review Conference, although the Convention verification system is sound, efforts to strengthen its efficiency and effectiveness, and to adapt it so as to take account of advances in science and technology, should continue.
- A number of the issues which, according to the Convention, have yet to be decided upon by the policy-making organs of the OPCW, still need to be brought to conclusion.
- The risk of terrorism with the use of toxic chemicals raises the question how the OPCW could best support States Parties' efforts to build effective responses in that respect.

Mr Chairperson,

The Executive Council, under the exceptionally able chairmanship of Ambassador Tomová of Slovakia and Ambassador Lomónaco of Mexico, has done an excellent job preparing issues for us to consider at this year's Conference. A number of major challenges have been dealt with expeditiously and successfully—among them a recommendation for the appointment of the next Director-General and the submission of the 2010 budget. The European Union welcomes the initiative by Brazil to mandate the Chairperson of the

Executive Council to engage in informal consultations related to the final extended destruction deadlines. We also welcome the fact that it was possible to reach a consensus decision on declaration requirements for Schedule 2A and Schedule 2A* chemicals, following many years of negotiations. We thank the Technical Secretariat for preparing the draft Annual Report for 2008, which has been endorsed and submitted for approval at this session. These achievements bear witness to the unique spirit that characterises the work of the policy-making organs.

Mr Chairperson,

On 27 July 2009, the Foreign Ministers of the European Union adopted the European Union Council Decision on support for OPCW activities, which had been negotiated under the French and Czech presidencies. The Council Decision allocates EUR 2,110,000 to seven projects that reinforce OPCW programme priorities, while also contributing to the implementation of the European Union's Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. This is the fourth such programme funded by the European Union. It provides for continued support to a number of OPCW projects, but also contains new elements. For instance, more than one quarter of the total amount, or EUR 550,000, will be used for a new activity in support of the OPCW's Programme for Africa. I am pleased to announce that, following the signing of the financing agreement earlier this month, the funds have been transferred to the OPCW, and that the implementation of the project has begun.

Mr Chairperson,

Through the Council Decision, the European Union continues to support projects that fall under various aspects of the Convention, including, notably, Article VII, Article XI, and universality. Not least set against that background, the European Union is very much in favour of a robust outcome from this Conference, including consensus decisions relating to all of these articles. We urge all States Parties to support the work of the facilitators and to work constructively towards a consensus outcome, in the tradition of this Organisation.

With regard to the promotion of national implementation, the European Union reiterates its call on the Technical Secretariat to consider alternative innovative approaches that might prove effective and efficient. One such approach might be increased use of interregional events, including training at OPCW Headquarters, targeting relevant government officials. The European Union urges all States Parties that have not yet done so to provide all required information to the Technical Secretariat in a timely manner, in accordance with their obligations under the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

Destruction of all chemical weapons remains a key objective of the Chemical Weapons Convention and an essential priority for the OPCW. It is of utmost importance that the remaining possessor States continue to be mindful of their obligations, address their challenges effectively, and make every effort to complete destruction on time, within the framework of the Convention and its verification regime.

The European Union congratulates India on its achievement of completing destruction of all chemical weapons declared to the OPCW. India has worked tirelessly and consistently to meet its deadlines for destruction. The successful conclusion of destruction activities reflects

the Indian Government's commitment to meeting its international obligations, as well as the dedication and level of expertise of the team charged with the disarmament work.

The European Union is prepared to support the request by the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for extension of the deadlines for destruction. In our statement to the Fifty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council, we called on Libya to provide further information about the plans, intentions, and projections on which the current extension request is based. We appreciate the transparency shown by the Libyan delegation, by issuing document EC-58/NAT.5/Add.1, and encourage the Libyan Government to keep States Parties informed as it moves towards completion of destruction by 15 May 2011.

We welcome the commitment of the Russian Federation to meet its destruction deadlines, and the forecast—now confirmed—that the 45% target will be met on time. The European Union considers that visits by the Council to chemical weapons destruction facilities are useful measures of transparency and confidence building, and looks forward to proposals for a further such visit to the Russian Federation during 2010. The European Union and its Member States continue to work closely with Russia with regard to the destruction facilities in operation and under construction. We have noted the arrangements reached with regard to the endpoint of destruction and thickener contained in chemical weapons stocks. We note, in particular, the Director-General's statements that this does not detract from the State Party's obligation to complete destruction on time, and that systematic verification at chemical weapons destruction facilities will continue until all the reaction mass containing Schedule 2 chemicals has been destroyed.

The European Union welcomes the destruction, by the United States of America, of more than 65% of its chemical weapons stockpile, including 96.6% of nerve agents and 100% of binary chemical weapons. The European Union also appreciates the high degree of transparency shown by the United States in its destruction programme, and its declared willingness to consider further confidence-building measures beyond its legal obligations. However, the European Union also attaches great importance to the deadlines for destruction. We therefore call on the United States to continue and, where necessary, accelerate its efforts towards the early completion of chemical weapons destruction activities in accordance with its international undertakings.

Concerning disarmament in Iraq, the European Union regrets that it has not yet been possible to carry out the Technical Secretariat's planned visit to prepare for verification activities. We look forward to the submission of a draft detailed plan for destruction for the Council's consideration and the launch of inspection activities, as soon as practicable.

Mr Chairperson,

Destruction of the weapons of the past must be accompanied by the prevention of new chemical weapons being developed in the future. In particular Articles VI, VII, and IX of the Convention are vital pillars for pursuing the non-proliferation goals of the Convention.

It is important to strengthen the industry verification regime. The Second Review Conference recalled that the selection of a particular facility or plant site for inspection shall take into account, besides the risk posed by the relevant chemical, inter alia, the characteristics of the facility and the nature of the activities carried out there. The European Union notes that some facilities producing discrete organic chemicals are using flexible

equipment capable of producing toxic substances, and would consider it important for the Technical Secretariat to be provided sufficient information in order to focus its inspections in this regard. We also note that only 2.6% of the inspectable OCPFs received inspections in 2008, and that at this rate it would take more than 30 years to inspect all such facilities declared to the OPCW.

The Technical Secretariat needs to continue to improve its preparedness to carry out challenge inspections or investigations of alleged use. To this end, and to increase the information available to laboratories in States Parties, the European Union believes that it is important to develop further the OPCW Central Analytical Database—the OCAD.

The European Union recognises that the implementation of all articles of the Convention constitutes a tangible measure in our common endeavour to prevent, detect, and respond to acts of terrorism in the chemical field. The activities of the OPCW are of great importance—in particular those leading to enhanced national implementation. The European Union supports the role of the Technical Secretariat in this regard. We also support the efforts of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism to further this contribution within the framework of the existing mandate of the Convention, for instance, through the exchange of information on best practices. We will continue to work closely with the new facilitator in the implementation of this task.

The European Union has noted with satisfaction the Secretariat's intention to hold ASSISTEX III in the second half of 2010, and welcomes the offer by Tunisia to host the exercise. Several European Union Member States have made offers of contributions to assistance efforts under Article X of the Convention, and we are looking forward to this important event. We would also urge a focused approach that would enable the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to derive maximum benefit from ASSISTEX III.

Mr Chairperson,

Before concluding my remarks, I would like, on behalf of the European Union, to pay tribute to Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, since this is the last regular Conference during his tenure. Ambassador Pfirter has led the Technical Secretariat during a pivotal time, which has seen a steady increase in the number of States Parties and in the volume of work undertaken by the Technical Secretariat. Ambassador Pfirter's personal commitment and hard work have been instrumental in attaining these achievements, and in the OPCW's ability to deal with the resulting challenges effectively and efficiently, under conditions of zero nominal budget growth. It is an Organisation in shipshape condition that he hands over to his successor at the end of his term. The European Union extends its heartfelt thanks to Ambassador Pfirter and looks forward to working closely with his successor, Ambassador Üzümcü, who is due to be appointed by the Conference at this session.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference of States Parties.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.