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REPUBLIC OF IRAQ

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MUHAMMAD ABDULLAH ALHUMAIMIDI
HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS
AND COOPERATION IN THE IRAQI MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AT THE FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Your Excellency, the Director-General of the OPCW,
Distinguished delegations, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my delegation's compliments for your election to the chairmanship of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are of the firm belief that your experience and diplomatic skills will crown our conference with success. My compliments go also to the Director-General of the OPCW, and to the Ambassador of Lithuania, H.E. Vaidotas Verba, who with great diligence chaired the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties last year.

We associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Mr Chairperson,

Since the collapse of the former Iraqi regime, the Government of Iraq has committed itself to adopt a number of international steps and actions aimed at non-proliferation, and to get rid of the remaining previous programmes according to the paragraph E of Article 9 of the Iraqi Constitutions (*The Iraqi Government shall respect and implement Iraq' international obligations regarding the non-proliferation, non-development, non-production, and non-use of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and shall prohibit associated equipment, material, and technologies and delivery systems for use in the development, manufacture, production, and use of such weapons*). Therefore my Government supports the international non-proliferation system and is committed to disarmament treaties and other relevant international agreements and arrangements.

In this context, Iraq supports all the international efforts on fighting nuclear, biological, and chemical terrorism and adopting measures to prevent these materials from being in the hands of terrorists.



Mr Chairperson,

Iraq has been a member of the Convention since February 2009, and submitted its initial declaration of the remaining previous programme regarding bunkers (13 and 41), which were closed by UNSCOM since 1994.

The Iraqi experts have undertaken discussions and consultations with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation. Accordingly, the Iraqi Government has formed a national committee to study, evaluate and develop a plan for the destruction of these residues. This Committee began its work in May 2010 and ended on 22 August 2010. The Iraqi Government has recently agreed on the Commission's recommendations and established an Advisory Committee consisting of the related Iraqi ministries to follow up on the liquidation of the Al Muthana Bunkers and issuance of the necessary plans for the operations in collaboration with Technical Secretariat of the Organisation (TS).

Mr Chairperson,

Proceeding from the Iraqi Government's desire for building confidence and transparency with the international community, invitations were repeatedly extended to the Technical Secretariat to visit Iraq and meet Iraqi officials and experts and visit the sites subject of a declaration, and we are looking forward to have the TS team in Baghdad as soon as possible.

The Government of Iraq has also taken several steps in the various fields of disarmament and non-proliferation in order to maintain building-confidence, the latest its adherence to The Hague Code of Conduct.

Iraq has also adopted a number of control measures on the import and export of dual-use material within the framework of the implementation of its obligations under Security Council resolutions relevant to disarmament. A plan for this purpose had been made with the cooperation of the Ministry of Commerce, Sciences and Technology and the General Authority for Customs.

Mr Chairperson,

My Government would like to take this opportunity to express its thanks to the Executive Council and States Parties to the Convention and the Director-General of the Organisation to their response, during the Sixty-Second Session of the Executive Council, on the tragedy of the city of Halabja, by inviting the Director-General, on behalf of the Organisation, to convey annually on 16 March to the authorities and inhabitants of the city of Halabja, a statement in memory of the chemical weapons attacks thereon, and to express sympathy for the victims.

Finally, we would like to stress the readiness of my Government to cooperate with the Organisation and all States Parties, in order to achieve the noble goals of the Convention on the basis of dialogue and cooperation and the common desire to create a free world of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons.

I hope to adopt this statement as an official document of this Conference.

Thank you.