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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDALLA HAMDAN AL NAQBI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE OPCW AT THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson,
Excellency the Director-General of the OPCW,
Excellencies Heads of attending delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the United Arab Emirates delegation, I should like to congratulate you, Madam Chairperson, on your election as Chairperson of the current session of the Conference. I wish you success in your task, and the delegation of my country stands ready to support you in your work.

Likewise, I should like to thank H.E. Ambassador Sa'ad Ibrahim Al-Ali for his efforts during his term as Chairperson of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference. I congratulate him on his successful mandate.

I should also like to extend my greetings and appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for maintaining his efforts to promote the global role and profile of the OPCW and implement the Convention.

The United Arab Emirates believes strongly in the objectives of the Convention, in which the whole world has stressed its determination to act with a view to achieving effective progress towards general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction, thus ensuring security for all mankind. The destruction of 84.95% of declared chemical weapons is an important step in the implementation of the provisions of, and obligations under, the Convention, bringing us closer to achieving a world free of chemical weapons. In view of States Parties' obligations, we join international voices calling for the need for possessor States Parties to meet the deadlines specified for the disposal and destruction of their chemical weapons, in order to strengthen the credibility of the Convention.

We emphasise the need for the Director-General of the OPCW to maintain his efforts in engaging the representatives of States not Party to the Convention, with a view to raising their awareness of the importance of acceding thereto.



We also still call for convening a conference on the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, and still harbour the hope that it will be convened. We urge the OPCW and the States Parties to intensify their efforts for such a conference to be convened as early as possible, given its importance, not only for the Middle East region, but also for achieving global peace and security, which have become more urgent than ever.

The United Arab Emirates fully supports the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in undertaking their mandate for the destruction of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. We highly appreciate the professional and expeditious manner in which they are conducting their work, in spite of the difficulties and circumstances encountered in completing the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

We also call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to maintain its efforts and cooperation for the early elimination of the remaining chemical weapons and destruction of the former chemical weapons production facilities, and to cooperate fully and transparently with the Technical Secretariat to resolve issues regarding the accuracy and completeness of submitted declarations, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The delegation of my country viewed the report and findings of the Fact-Finding Mission on the allegations of use of toxic chemicals in the Syrian Arab Republic, based on evidence of chlorine gas-filled barrel bombs having been dropped from helicopters on the villages of Talmenes, Al Tamanah and Kafr Zita. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons, especially against unarmed civilians, and call on the Technical Secretariat to give utmost priority to this issue. We also invite the Fact-Finding Mission to continue its work, with all due consideration to laying procedures for the safety and security of the Mission members, so that the perpetrators are identified and condemned.

The United Arab Emirates, through its National Authority, has undertaken to enact enforcing regulations for the Federal Act on Goods and Materials Subject to Import and Export Control. The State has also hosted the Fourteenth International Conference on the Control of Exports, from 14 to 16 March 2014.

The National Authority has endeavoured to establish a coordination network with customs and other relevant authorities to enforce tighter control measures on the entry, exit and use of restricted chemicals. Personnel have also attended specialised workshops and courses to develop their knowledge of control measures and their technical skills. Training programmes were also organised to familiarise the private sector with national laws and legislations on the handling of chemicals and procedures for obtaining import and export permits.

In conclusion, Madam Chairperson, we wish that this Conference be crowned with success and that our deliberations will contribute to further progress in the implementation of the Convention.

I should like that this statement be adopted as an official document of the Conference.

I thank you.