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UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR OLEXANDER HORIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE OPCW AT THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Ms Chairperson, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to make the following additional remarks.

Ukraine notes with satisfaction an effective operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as the only comprehensive multilateral treaty banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, providing the verification system and promoting the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes.

The international community has achieved a lot during the last year in destructing the Syrian chemical weapons programme, however much more needs to be done to fully implement relevant decisions of the Executive Council and the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). The removal and subsequent destruction of the declared Syrian chemicals constitute a significant step towards complete and irreversible dismantling of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

Recent events in the Syrian Arab Republic set us thinking again about the urgent necessity to bind all international actors with the Chemical Weapons Convention's obligations. The use of chemical weapons is not acceptable under any circumstances.

Ukraine is gravely concerned about the systematic and repeated use of a toxic chemical as a weapon since last April as confirmed in the second report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) set up to investigate the facts around those allegations. We support the Director-General's decision that the FFM continues its work and we firmly believe that all perpetrators of atrocious abuses and war crimes in the Syrian Arab Republic, including the use of chemical weapons, must be held accountable. The international community must come together and respond to these attacks.

Like many other delegations we attach particular importance to the timely and safe destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, accumulated by the possessor States.

Having no doubts about the commitment of both major possessor States to destroy all remaining stockpiles as soon as possible, we are concerned that despite the measures



undertaken by the Russian Federation in order to meet the deadline of December 2015 to complete its destruction activities, with regard to the Kizner facility, the destruction will continue after 2015.

Another concern in this area is ensuring the security of existing chemical weapons stockpiles in Libya. We support the OPCW active engagement in this issue. The recent situation in Libya has highlighted the need for the Organisation to be prepared to respond, in accordance with the Convention.

Ukraine wishes to underline that the total destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is a fundament basis of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We urge all the possessor States to continue with their efforts to complete destruction in the shortest time possible in accordance with the decision of the Conference of the States Parties.

The current economic and financial situation affects all of us. We fully support the Director-General's efforts in introducing further efficiency and cost-saving measures, ensuring the best use of the limited available resources. This would allow the OPCW to absorb additional expenses within existing resources. In the current economic situation everyone – including the OPCW – must be prepared to do more with less. In this regard we welcome the draft programme and budget of the OPCW for 2015.

I cannot but mention that 20 years ago - on 5 December 1994 in Budapest - Ukraine renounced nuclear weapons and became a non-nuclear-weapon state.

However, in 2014 the world is about to mark the 20th Anniversary of Ukraine's joining the NPT and, by the way, the 10th Anniversary of United Nations Security resolution 1540, by their robust violation.

Moreover, we are on the edge of ruining the whole international legal and security system. If we let it happen we would put an end to disarmament and the non-proliferation process as a whole. All our efforts aimed at providing security and safety, prevention of terrorism, development of international cooperation, strengthening the United Nations role and many other issues outlined by the international community will become senseless.

Ukraine has always displayed utmost responsibility in the implementation of its obligations under international treaties. The unconditional compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention remains on the priority list of the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine.

At this session of the Conference we are addressing the issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to co-operate fully with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organisation aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you, Ms Chairperson, and I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference.