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**ALGERIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NASSIMA BAGHLI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

The Algerian delegation would like, first of all, to express how pleased it is to see you presiding over our work, and to reiterate its support in the achievement of your mission.

I should also like to congratulate Ms Grace Asirwatham, who is today taking part in her first session of the Executive Council as Deputy Director-General of the OPCW. We are certain that both her professional and her human qualities will be of great benefit to the work of our Organisation.

My delegation fully supports the statements made by Ambassador Zelmys Dominguez Cortina on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and by Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

The Algerian delegation would like to take the opportunity of this Sixty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to reiterate its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the only multilateral treaty which seeks to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction.

This treaty is a considerable achievement, as it represents a significant milestone on the road to ridding the planet of weapons of mass destruction. We must do all we can to implement all the elements of this Convention, since it is a well thought-out structure which prohibits chemical weapons but permits the use of chemicals for peaceful purposes.

It is important that all the Member States feel certain that the Convention addresses their concerns and meets their needs. Only then will the text give full effect to all the provisions and the spirit contained within it. It is this synergy that will enable us to move forward together, and on the same wavelength.

With regard to the destruction of chemical weapons, which is, after all, the primary objective of the Convention, my delegation, while convinced of the commitment of the two possessor States, in this instance the United States and Russia, to undertaking the destruction of all of their stockpiles of chemical weapons, remains concerned by the fact that these countries risk not being able to respect the deadlines that have been set. We have been closely following



the informal consultations which you yourself, Mr Chairperson, have conducted, and hope that a consensual solution which does not detract from the integrity and the credibility of the Convention can be found before the annual Conference of the States Parties in December 2011.

My delegation is also very pleased with the current deliberations within the Executive Council on the implementation of a number of articles of the Convention, which, we hope, will result in concrete measures that will lead to reinforcement of this text. Like other developing countries, my country attaches special importance to Article XI on international cooperation.

With regard to the Programme for Africa, at this point my delegation would like to renew its thanks to the Director-General of the OPCW for having been kind enough to extend the duration of this programme, which has already demonstrated its effectiveness, by three years. This programme should be able to support African countries in their efforts towards implementing the various provisions of the Convention and making full use of the opportunities it offers, so that the Convention, for them, might be a real instrument that can promote their security and the development of their chemical industry. I should like to take this opportunity to thank the European Union, one of the main contributors to this programme.

Furthermore, I should like to bring to the attention of the Executive Council the fact that a seminar was organised in Algiers with the kind cooperation of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW on 31 March 2011 this year as part of the celebration of the International Year of Chemistry. Presentations were made both by Algerian speakers and by OPCW representatives on the fundamental provisions of the Convention and the opportunities it offers in terms of the peaceful use of chemical industry and, therefore, in terms of development.

In conclusion, as you prepare to complete your mandate as Chairperson of the Executive Council, the Algerian delegation would like to express its deep appreciation for the manner in which you have guided our work and for the impetus you have managed to give to our deliberations.

My delegation would like this statement to be considered as an official document of this Sixty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

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