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LIBYA

**STATEMENT BY THE LIBYAN DELEGATION AT THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellency, the OPCW Director-General,
Excellencies, Members of the Council,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like on behalf of the Libyan delegation to extend my congratulations to you on presiding over the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Executive Council of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. I wish at the same time to welcome the OPCW Director-General, members of the Technical Secretariat, and honourable delegates.

Based on its commitment to the Chemical Weapons Convention, in particular to completing disposal of all remaining chemical weapons stockpile in its possession and as a result of the great attention it has attached to this commitment, Libya has successfully completed disposal of its remaining stockpile of mustard-filled artillery shells and aerial bombs. Earlier last year, Libya had disposed of this gas in its bulk form. As this gas is the only one constituent of Libya's Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles, and having completed its disposal, Libya has become completely free of any lethal and poisonous chemicals of a military nature. Thus, the situation has become more secure taking into consideration the consequences that could have resulted from the presence of the prohibited weapons of this category in the Libyan territory and the impact it could have had on the safety of people, the surrounding environment and the adjacent areas. With the disposal of this stockpile we have achieved our target. It is an achievement which serves the objectives of the Convention, namely making the world free of chemical weapons. It is a step towards maintaining peace and security at the regional and international levels.

In order to promote transparency and highlight the visibility of the progress achieved in Ruwagha destruction facility, Libya hosted in Tripoli a visit by the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, the American Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defence Programmes, the Permanent Representative of Germany to the Organisation and representatives from the Technical Secretariat. The Ambassador of the United States of America in Libya and the Chargé d'Affaires of the Canadian Embassy in Libya joined the invited guests. On 5 February 2014, they all paid a high level visit to the Ruwagha Chemical Weapons Destruction Facility. The visit provided an opportunity for the visitors to familiarise themselves with the facility, the technology and other equipment used for the implementation of the disposal programme. The visit has also enabled them to get first-hand information about the measures taken



regarding the joint plan for security, safety and contingencies. They also watched a presentation on the work executed at the facility, which led to the completion of destruction of mustard-filled munitions. On the other hand, this visit demonstrated the importance Libya attaches to clarity and hard work and mutual cooperation to achieve the desired progress in the execution of the stages of work as set forth in the detailed plan related to the chemical weapons disposal programme in Libya.

On the basis of its full commitment to the provisions of the Convention, to contributing to the realisation of the Organisation's objectives, the Transitional Government attached great attention to the efforts aiming to destroy Libya's chemical stockpile. It has taken the necessary measures to make these efforts successful and provided the requirements needed for this purpose.

The progress that has been achieved is the result of international cooperation, in particular the role played by the international partnership programme and the logistical and technical support provided by the States Parties sponsoring the chemical weapons disposal programme in Libya. This mutual cooperation allowed the use of advanced technology with high standards in terms of safety, security and credibility. It also enabled training of national personnel, thereby helping them successfully use this technology.

This positive outcome is a clear reflection of the excellent role played by the Technical Secretariat, the professionalism and competence of its staff under the leadership of the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and the close communication and constructive cooperation with the Libyan side, which significantly contributed to the progress mentioned above.

The coming stage of the chemical weapons disposal programme will deal with the industrial chemicals (Category 2 chemical weapons). Libya has started preparations for this stage and is taking measures that will accelerate destruction activities and ensure that planned deadlines are met. It conducted a comprehensive and detailed study on the best methods for dealing with precursors, including the technology options that are compatible with the size and type of these chemicals as well as with the national capabilities. In this connection, Libya welcomes any technical support or cooperation that could help progress in this respect.

In conclusion, I thank you Mr Chairperson and everyone for your kind attention. I wish that this statement be considered as one of the official documents of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Council.

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