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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBAROLA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

We welcome you as Chairperson of this session of the Executive Council. Your leadership and professional expertise will contribute to the success of this session.

We would like to voice the Government of Mexico's recognition of the Director-General and his team of colleagues in the Technical Secretariat—especially everyone who has played a role in the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons and the Fact-Finding Mission—for their efforts, almost always in the face of adversity and danger. We thank the Director-General for his report, and the Vice-Chairpersons for their progress reports at this session.

We would also like to acknowledge the substantial work performed by the Special Coordinator of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission in eliminating the chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, Ms Sigrid Kaag and her team, who have successfully accomplished their mandate.

The progress that has been verified during the year in which the OPCW-UN Joint Mission was operating in the Syrian Arab Republic proves that despite difficult conditions, it is possible to implement international law when the political will exists to execute the decisions adopted by the governing bodies of international disarmament organisations like the OPCW.

While we await the physical destruction of the 12 toxic stockpile production facilities and clarification of the uncertainties concerning declarations for the complete elimination of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Organisation should ensure that what has been achieved so far will contribute to a solid foundation for the restoration of stability and peace in the region. Mexico will continue to lend its support to see the Syrian chemical weapons destruction plan through to the end and in full.

In this respect, as we have already mentioned, it is a cause for concern that the Fact-Finding Mission's second report has confirmed a breach of the Chemical Weapons Convention via the use of chlorine gas as a chemical weapon in three towns in the north-east of the Syrian Arab Republic and, moreover, that it has been used against civilians.



We must voice our strong condemnation of these despicable actions and allow the technical mission to continue its investigations in order to identify and hold accountable the parties who are guilty of this unlawful conduct.

Mexico reaffirms that the use of chemical weapons by any actor and under any circumstance is completely unacceptable and contradicts both international law and international humanitarian law.

The Convention encourages international cooperation among the States Parties toward the peaceful use of chemistry and calls for assisting and protecting other States Parties, primarily those exposed to threats or attacks involving chemical weapons.

We welcome the draft 2015 Programme and Budget and believe a balance should be achieved among the various areas to ensure that the Organisation performs effectively and tackles its priorities without any detriment to cost efficiency.

Mexico believes it necessary to continue working toward full compliance within the OPCW framework on all levels, from the complete elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles to verification, assistance, and protection, as well as international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical industry operations and aspects not prohibited by the Convention. However, we must continue working to achieve universality of the Convention. The efforts of both the OPCW and its Member States are indispensable and, in that regard it is necessary to continue the efforts of the States Parties to ensure that there is a complete and up-to-date internal regulatory framework in place to guarantee compliance with the Convention.

On the other hand, it has become evident that there is a need for institutional responses to the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. Finally, Mexico reiterates its call for other States Parties—particularly States in possession of a chemical stockpile and which have extended deadlines for the complete destruction thereof—to continue reporting to the Executive Council on their progress working toward compliance with the provisions set out in the Convention for the complete elimination of chemical weapons.

I kindly request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Council and that it be published on the OPCW public website and external server.

Thank you.

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