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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

URUGUAY

**STATEMENT BY DR VERÓNICA CREGO
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF URUGUAY TO THE OPCW AT
THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation would like to thank the Director-General for the thorough report that he has presented regarding the state of the Organisation and the various initiatives it is working on. Likewise, we would like to express our thanks for the statements made by the Vice-Chairpersons.

Since its accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention, Uruguay had nearly completed its obligations as set out in Article VII. The final task has just been accomplished via the enactment of law 19.205, which puts into place the relevant legislative and administrative measures. As such, my country is joining the Member States that have fully incorporated the Convention into their respective national legislation. In this regard, we are optimistic that the efforts of the remaining States will achieve full compliance with the Convention in their respective national jurisdictions.

In keeping with its high level of commitment to this instrument, Uruguay has been an active participant in the OPCW's international cooperation programmes under Article XI. Our country is involved in the academic and scientific communities in Latin America, and promotes the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes, as well as assistance and protection against chemical weapons in accordance with the Convention. Naturally, we will support all of the initiatives promoted by the Organisation toward reinforcing programmes meant to encourage the economic and technological development of the States Parties and foster national capabilities via the exchange of scientific and technological information, awarding scholarships and internships, and supporting research projects. In this regard, we are very interested in the recent proposal presented by the Argentine Republic.

The universality of the Convention is an essential requirement for ensuring that its objectives are met; without a doubt, this will contribute to guaranteeing improved security, both internationally and in the States Parties themselves. The objectives of the Convention cannot be fully achieved while there is even one State in possession of chemical weapons or in a position to obtain chemical weapons. Uruguay believes that this task should be encouraged by the Organisation's Member States, especially those holding a higher degree of influence or which are closer to those States which have not yet acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat.



Uruguay is pleased to hear that the Secretariat is strengthening the programme and budget process and would like to thank the Director-General for document EC-77/CRP.1, entitled “Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2015”. Further, we would like to recognise the efforts that have been made to reduce the budget by 5% from the 2014 budget, without any detriment to the Convention’s fundamental objectives. At the same time, we would like to recognise the efforts made by the distinguished facilitators: the Ambassador of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the Minister of the Portuguese Republic.

On the other hand, my delegation believes that the Council should give due attention to monitoring the mandates issued by the Third Review Conference. This reflects the political will of all of the States Parties and constitutes, *ipso jure*, an inevitable guide for next steps. Uruguay will continue to unite its efforts toward this end.

My delegation would like to express—once again—its recognition of the work that has been carried out by the Fact-Finding Mission, and gratitude for the presentation of its second report. Likewise, we reiterate our great concern regarding the conclusions to which it has arrived, establishing that chemical weapons have been used in three sites located in the north-eastern territory of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Uruguay condemns the use of this type of weapon by any national or international actor, as it is in direct violation of the standards and principles of international law, especially those set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention; it is for this reason that this delegation supports the Director-General’s proposal to continue the Mission.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Seventy-Seventh Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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