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CROATIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR VESELA MRĐEN KORAĆ PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CROATIA TO THE OPCW AT THE SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr Chairperson, Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Croatia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Latvia on behalf of the EU and, in addition, I would like to reiterate some of the especially important points for the Croatian delegation.

The Croatian delegation supports further emphasis on final destruction of all declared stockpiles and related verification as we need to keep a strong focus on achieving key priorities of the Convention. The same goes to the full national implementation of the Convention where Croatia is ready to share its experiences and expertise, including, through education and outreach programmes and activities.

Recognising significant achievements that have been made in the elimination of the chemical weapons programme in the Syrian Arab Republic— besides the need to continue our work at the highest possible intensity in order to achieve complete destruction of the remaining chemical weapons production facilities—Croatia would like to emphasise the credibility issue in finally clarifying all outstanding issues in the Syrian Arab Republic's declarations. Therefore, Croatia fully supports the efforts of the Declaration Assessment Team, professionally led by its Head, in continuing their work until all relevant information of Syrian declarations have been clarified.

Croatia would like to welcome the vision paper "the OPCW in 2025" and is ready to further elaborate possible cooperation in some areas such as chemical safety and security issues that are of our particular interest.

Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming Myanmar as a fully fledged member of the Organisation as soon as possible.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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