



BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PIRAGIBE S. TARRAGÔ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

The Brazilian delegation wishes to welcome you to the Chair of the Executive Council and express our confidence on your capacity to conduct our activities with efficiency and objectivity. We wish also to thank the Director-General, Ahmet Üzümcü, and the Technical Secretariat for having well prepared the Council session. In particular, we commend the Director-General for having recently presented a budget proposal for 2016 that broadly meets our expectations.

At the outset, I would like to welcome Myanmar to our Organisation. We will mark this occasion more formally later this week, but we are delighted to see Myanmar engaging itself with our endeavours to rid the world of chemical weapons. We also welcome the information provided by the Director-General on the steps taken by Angola and South Sudan to join the OPCW.

As is well known, Brazil, like any State Party, attaches great importance to the OPCW. We view the Chemical Weapons Convention as a unique agreement in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. We are sure that, once the destruction of the remaining stockpiles is completed, we will continue to make good use of the Convention provisions in new scenarios in the pursuance of a world free of weapons of mass destruction.

In the intersessional period, we were informed that the Pueblo destruction facility had begun the first campaign operation. Brazil welcomes such an announcement, trustful that the possessor States will spare no efforts to destroy the most fatal chemicals as soon as possible. It is, after all, their responsibility to demonstrate they are making concrete efforts to expedite destruction activities.

Since the establishment of the “Advisory Panel on Future OPCW Priorities”, in 2010, it has become clear that the core objectives of the Convention will remain highly relevant in the near future. The main challenge that remains for us is to consider is how they can be adapted to take account of contemporary realities in the international context.

We have already mapped areas in which we can do more, such as the verification mechanism, which can be improved by selecting the most relevant sites to be inspected, and making the inspections more consistent to prevent any possible diversion of production. Or capacity building for the peaceful use of chemistry, where we can deepen our activities in collaboration with fellow institutions, and secure predictable funding. In that vein, I would



like to express our gratitude to the Article XI facilitator and the ICA Division, who have not been discouraged by gaps between positions, and continued to encourage members to engage in the exploration of new ideas.

The international community has also made great strides in limiting state's ability to pursue chemical weapons capabilities. However, the main elements of the non-proliferation regime are still designed to affect the decisions and policies of only one type of actor, that is, the States. Maybe future attention can be given on how to enhance State's capacity and responsibility to deny terrorists and other non-State actors the means to carry out chemical attacks, bearing in mind the relative easiness of acquiring hazardous materials in the marketplace as well as of accessing know-how.

On the Syrian Arab Republic, Brazil is happy to see progress in many aspects of the dismantlement programme of the Syrian Arab Republic's stockpile. Clearly, the OPCW, with the valuable support of many States Parties, has contributed a great deal to the removal of the toxic chemicals, and I am sure that it will continue to pursue the overriding purpose of assisting the Syrian Arab Republic to fulfil the obligations it assumed, when it adhered to the Convention.

However, in spite of our efforts with the Syrian programme, the civil conflict has continued unabated and even generated more bloodshed. Clearly, the OPCW is only a small piece in the puzzle that would settle the Syrian conflict. Much more is needed, in particular from the Syrian people themselves, to put an end to the cycle of violence against their own country. It is our job, through the mechanisms available under the Convention, to help create the conditions for a negotiated solution to the conflict.

On another subject, I wish to inform you that, from 24 to 28 August next, the city of Rio de Janeiro will host the 1st Exercise on Chemical Emergency Response for Portuguese-speaking countries, including with the expected participation of Angola. The event will close a cycle of training for the lusophone community, which started in 2013.

In the context of the Fellowship Programme, Brazil will also provide the opportunity for two researchers to have on-the-job training, by participating in the ongoing activities of a chemical plant in São Paulo. As far as we know, such initiative has no precedent in the region and represents an important contribution from our national chemical industry to the implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

Likewise, Brazil has successfully completed the Partnership Programme with São Tomé and Príncipe. With the support of the Secretariat, Brazil's National Authority provided technical advice in order to enable São Tomé to draft its national legislation, which is ready for submission to its Parliament.

Brazil is committed to assuring the realisation of our collective goals of disarmament, non-proliferation and human development. The OPCW is an invaluable instrument to promote cooperation among States Parties. We remain confident that the Organisation will rise to the challenge of addressing new issues and problems as they emerge.

I would ask that this statement be included in the official records of this meeting.

Thank you.