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**PERU**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PERU  
AT THE SEVENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to extend a warm welcome to your first session as Chairperson of the Executive Council. You may count on the full support of my delegation toward achieving the objectives facing this Council. At the same time, we voice our gratitude to Ambassador Álvaro Moerzinger of Uruguay for the magnificent work he completed during his term at the head of the Council over the past year.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement by the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and China delivered by our colleague, the distinguished Ambassador of Iran.

First of all, we welcome the Director-General's presentation and the recent advances announced regarding the accession of Myanmar, Angola, and South Sudan to the Chemical Weapons Convention. At the same time, we urge the remaining countries that have yet to do so to initiate the process to accede to the Convention.

My delegation appreciates the continued conversations among the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Technical Secretariat's Declaration Assessment Team concerning said country's initial declaration. In this regard, we reiterate the call to the Syrian Arab Republic to continue cooperating on this important matter in order to clarify any potential discrepancies, and to determine any need to make any additional amendments to remedy any potential errors or omissions and, at the same time, guarantee the accuracy and completeness of its initial declaration.

In this regard, we await with great interest the submission of the latest report from the Declaration Assessment Team on the results of the most recent visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

We believe it is timely and necessary that the Fact-Finding Mission continue its investigation into the alleged incidents involving chemical weapons that may have existed. In this regard, we call for the parties in the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully and effectively with the OPCW Mission.

In that respect, Peru reiterates its great concern about the alleged incidents and thus once again voices its strong condemnation of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, by anyone under any circumstances.



We await with interest the new report to be presented by the Fact-Finding Mission.

Similarly, my delegation has been carefully observing the process of the destruction of the 12 Syrian chemical weapons destruction facilities. In this regard, we welcome the important progress made to date, and we also hope that the destruction process is completed in the shortest possible time.

The full implementation of the Convention, in accordance with Article VII thereof, should be a fundamental objective of the Organisation. We are concerned to see that only a small percentage of the States Parties have fully implemented the Convention, and many States still do not have the tools they need to adequately develop their national capabilities.

For this reason, we urge those States Parties that have not yet contacted the OPCW Technical Secretariat to do so in order to coordinate the steps needed to achieve full implementation of the Convention.

My delegation attaches great importance to full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

In this regard, Peru supports the specific proposals presented by the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and China for the implementation of Article XI within the framework of information consultations recently led by the facilitator of this topic. For this reason, we await with interest the development of a constructive debate on this and other proposals presented by the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat.

My delegations believes it is of crucial importance to place a greater focus on cooperation, one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention needed to contribute to the expansion of the chemical industry and commerce among all States Parties, safely and without discrimination.

This issue also implies the development of other forms of cooperation among the States; for example, to respond to potential chemical weapons attacks by non-state actors.

In this regard, it is with concern that we acknowledge the existence of non-State actors searching to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transfer, or use nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery. In this sense, we point to the great importance of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) and the key international tools associated with weapons of mass destruction—among which is the Chemical Weapons Convention—obligating all members of the United Nations to adopt and apply effective measures to prevent non-State actors from acquiring control over such weapons, especially for terrorist purposes. On this point, it again stands to mention that the South American regional workshop on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) took place from 11 to 13 November last year in Lima, which relied on the participation of the members of the group of experts of the 1540 Committee, as well as an official from the OPCW.

In this regard, we hope that the States Parties find an effective and clear way to tackle the threat that would be posed by non-State actors or terrorist groups in possession of chemical weapons. Coordination with other international bodies is thus of great importance, as is the strengthening of the programmes of assistance and cooperation aimed at improving national

capacities that will allow the States Parties to be in the condition to act when faced by potential non-possessor States of chemical weapons.

In this sense, Peru supports the work that the OPCW is carrying out in this area and believes that it should be strengthened in the future. For this reason, we value and welcome the document on this discussion recently published by the Technical Secretariat and entitled “Measures to Prevent Hostile Use of Toxic Chemicals by Non-State Actors”.

Education and outreach are indispensable elements for maintaining and strengthening the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons established by the Convention. Thus, my delegation believes that education and outreach play an increasingly relevant role in the future of the OPCW and in the prevention of the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

For this reason, and bearing in mind the recommendations of the Third Review Conference and the proposal of the Director-General to create a permanent Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, my delegation is ready to participate in constructive discussions toward the adoption of the corresponding decision at this Council.

I would be most appreciative if this statement could be considered an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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