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AUSTRALIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR BRETT MASON
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9**

Thank you, Madam Chair.

Australia welcomes the report of the Scientific Advisory Board's 23rd meeting in April, and wishes to express its appreciation for the professional, objective work of the Board.

We were encouraged to see in the report the Board's broad-ranging discussions on various developments in science and technology.

We also appreciate the extensive work it has done on verification techniques, emerging technologies, and new equipment and procedures—including on the long-term storage of samples relating to the alleged use of chemical weapons.

Such contributions—particularly at present—highlight the direct relevance of the Board's work to the OPCW's overall goals.

As many States Parties are aware, Australia shares with many other nations a deep interest in the issue of central nervous system-acting chemicals.

We were therefore pleased to learn of discussions on this subject at the Board's April meeting. This included a review of previous Board discussions and several useful recommendations to build greater understanding and to address technical developments relating to central nervous system-acting chemicals.

Without the input of the Board's diverse, multi-regional group of experts, the OPCW would lose a valuable tool for achieving the goals of the Chemical Weapon Convention—today and in the years to come.

May I humbly, but most enthusiastically, encourage all States Parties to read the report of the Board's April meeting, and give due consideration to its recommendations.

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