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**REPORT BY H.E. DR JOE TONY AIDOO
FACILITATOR OF THE OPEN-ENDED WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM TO THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AT ITS EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION**

Madam Chairperson, Director-General, distinguished colleagues.

1. It is my pleasure and privilege to present to the Eighty-Third Session of the Executive Council, a short oral report on the third meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) for the year 2016, which I had the honour to chair this past Monday, 10 October.
2. I would like to report on the OEWG-T meeting itself, and comment briefly on the work of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors as it was established by the OEWG-T in October 2015, exactly a year ago.
3. Firstly, in terms of the OEWG-T meeting itself. The Secretariat provided the OEWG-T, in its previous meeting in July, an overview of the many international legal instruments and frameworks aimed at combating terrorism, their diverse relationship between these frameworks, and their general relationship with the Chemical Weapons Convention. I had noted that this presentation was well received by the Group, as it reinforced the importance of knowing more about the landscape within which we operate. It also underscored the need for the OPCW to review and, where possible, enhance cooperation with entities at the international, national, regional, and sub-regional levels. It is in this regard that we invited to our meeting of 10 October representatives of the Committee established by the United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.
4. Although the 1540 Committee Chairman, Román Oyarzun Marchesi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations, could not attend the meeting in person, he kindly recorded his remarks in a short video. He acknowledged the close cooperation between the 1540 Committee and the OPCW, and the OPCW's input to the Committee's Comprehensive Review related to 1540 implementation, which is being undertaken now. The Chairman also noted that with the OPCW's cooperation, we will succeed in enforcing the prevention system to avoid weapons of mass destruction being used by terrorists and other non-State actors. Mr Gennady Lutay, as one of the nine experts of the 1540 Expert Group which assists the 1540 Committee in its mandate, was also present at our meeting, and presented details about the 1540 Committee's mandate, its activities as they are mutually reinforcing with the OPCW's work, and some results of the Comprehensive Review so far. Chairman Marchesi's full written statement and Mr Lutay's presentation are available on the OPCW extranet.



5. With regard to the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, I would like to express my appreciation to H.E. Mrs María Teresa Infante, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Chile for her hard work and leadership as the Facilitator of the sub-working group. Her Excellency kindly made a comprehensive oral report of the SWG's inter-sessional work since the previous OEWG-T meeting in July. Ambassador Infante also suggested a general path forward on a number of possible lines of discussion that the sub-group could follow between now and the next OEWG-T meeting in March 2017. I note that this summary was based on her written report, which was issued last week as a working paper (EC-83/WP.1, dated 7 October 2016).
6. From the proceedings of both the OEWG-T and the Sub-Working Group of Non-State Actors, I believe that the time has come to construct an action oriented anti-chemical warfare programme. The need for an action plan is the more imperative the more we are faced with situations like those reported about the Syrian Arab Republic in the United Nations joint investigation mechanism's reports. Such situations heighten rather than abate the risk of chemical terrorism.
7. In this regard, I urge the Executive Council to take a pertinent note of the draft decision sponsored by a group of delegations at the July 2016 meeting of this Council, entitled "Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors," (EC-82/DEC/CRP.4/Rev.1, dated 14 July 2016).
8. The exchanges related to both the content of the draft decision, and also the process by which the content could be further discussed. I believe the draft decision formally appears on the agenda of the current meeting as the next item. I therefore urge that a discussion regarding the way to move forward will take place based on a proposal from the sponsors of that decision.
9. I note that the next meeting of the OEWG-T is scheduled for 6 March 2017, one day ahead of the Eighty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council. Incidentally, 6 March is my country's independence day.

Thank you Madam Chair.

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