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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW AT
THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

I wish to express my appreciation for the work carried out so far under your chairmanship of this Council, and to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive report of activities carried out in the intersessional period.

News regarding alleged chemical attacks unfortunately, continue unabated. My delegation cannot overemphasise its firm condemnation to the use of weapons of mass destruction anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances.

As we saw last week during the extraordinary meeting of the Executive Council, the Syrian dossier continues to be the most sensitive issue the OPCW faces. We look forward to the follow-up to the final report of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) concerning the events of 4 April in Khan Shaykhun and 16 September 2016 in Um-Housh, in particular the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mission (JIM) findings which will possibly lead to the attribution of responsibilities.

Much still remains to be done regarding the verification of Syria's initial declaration. We acknowledge that the Technical Secretariat is carrying out its tasks under unfavourable security conditions. Brazil reiterates its support to the Secretariat, and encourages the continuation of its work. We also recognise the Syrian efforts to fully implement its obligations under the Convention, as described in the regular reports we have in front of us. Let me also take this opportunity to highlight the Director-General's request to the Syrian government to renew efforts and identify documents and other relevant information that would better assist in clarifying outstanding issues.

Brazil stands ready to work in this Council, in a constructive and transparent manner, with a view to finding a positive and timely outcome to the unresolved issues pertaining to the Syrian Arab Republic in the OPCW. We stress once again our strong preference for the Executive Council to act in a unified manner and reiterate our expectation that the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties will resume taking decisions by consensus.

We have ahead of us an extensive agenda with several administrative subjects, to be discussed during this and the next Executive Council session, in October. Without referring to each individual matter, allow me to briefly comment on only one of them, the budget



program proposal for 2018. Although this document was presented to us only last Friday, and will be properly discussed in due course, I could not miss this opportunity to welcome the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in presenting, once again, a zero nominal growth budget proposal.

This session of the Executive Council will witness the beginning of the consideration of the candidacies to the position of Director-General. We look forward to the presentations and debates that will, I am sure, help States Parties to select the best possible candidate. In this regard, Mr Chairman, we are confident of your ability to conduct a transparent and inclusive process that will take into account the participation of States Parties from all regional groups. Brazil thanks all the candidates for their willingness to serve the Organisation and to dedicate themselves to the fulfilment of the OPCW objectives and the implementation of the Convention. They can be certain of having Brazil as a fully committed partner to these goals. Thank you.

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