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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARÍA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW AT THE
EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

It is a pleasure to once again welcome you at the head of this body.

Our delegation aligns itself with the statement by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, voiced by H.E. Haifa Aissami, Ambassador of the Bolivian Republic of Venezuela.

We would like to congratulate you on directing the process of the Council's nomination of the Organisation's next Director-General at the Conference of the States Parties.

We highlight the performance of all of the candidates, who so carefully presented their strategic ideas and visions for the OPCW, and accept the designation of one of them by consensus for consideration at this Executive Council. We congratulate Ambassador Fernando Arias, who is highly deserving of his name being presented to this Executive Council, as agreed upon by everyone. We welcome and value his commitment, which will support the Organisation in the future in his capacity as Director-General.

We recall that over recent years the Organisation, under the management of Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü and with the efforts of the Technical Secretariat, has undergone a particularly challenging period.

Bearing in mind the broad objective shared by Chile to achieve a total and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including weapons of mass destruction, we congratulate the Russian Federation on completing the destruction of its chemical weapons. This achievement is an example of how the unification of the OPCW's verification efforts and the cooperative efforts of the States Parties works to achieve the goals set out in the Convention with regard to chemical disarmament.

We have noted the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, with incidents as recent as 30 March this year.

This is a matter of concern, and we agree that it is an illicit event that constitutes a flagrant violation of the Convention, international law, and international humanitarian law. We call for putting to use the tools that exist in order to put a stop to these attacks.



We fully support the investigations of the Fact-Finding Mission and we are confident that the Syrian Arab Republic is willing to provide the Mission with the necessary cooperation in order to ensure that it can carry out its work securely and effectively.

We must act in response to the use of chemical weapons and we are confident that with the implementation of current international norms, the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism will continue to contribute to identifying the perpetrators so that their actions can be held accountable under international law.

This brings us to recall that we continue to work on closing the gaps and inconsistencies that remain in the Syrian Arab Republic's declaration of its chemical weapons programme.

With regard to the last round of high-level consultations between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic this past 16 – 18 September and the subsequent exchange of information, we would highlight the efforts of their authorities to take additional steps in order to clarify the role of the Syrian Studies and Research Centre (SSRC). At the same time, these consultations must efficiently respond to unresolved questions and make it possible to fully verify the submission of an additional declaration that is both accurate and complete in compliance with the Convention and the relevant decisions of the Executive Council.

The resolution of unresolved matters will put to rest any questions regarding the complete elimination of this programme, and will make it possible for the Syrian authorities to confirm their cooperation on this matter.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to once again voice our recognition of the dedicated work of the members of the Fact-Finding Mission and the Declaration Assessment Team.

The full implementation of the Convention, and compliance with Article VII thereof, is a fundamental goal of the Organisation and a vital element in ensuring the confidence and security of the States Parties.

For this reason, we welcome the enriching exchange of experiences among the States Parties in our region at a forum co-organised by the Technical Secretariat and the National Authority of Chile this past September in Santiago, led by the Director-General. The activities that were organised for this forum should lead to the desired results in the participating countries, and especially in our country, as they confirm the importance of legislation as a critical tool for ensuring the full effectiveness of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are relying on the support of the National Congress for its support with national implementation measures.

We also welcome the presentation by the Director-General at our Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made before an interested and attentive audience and referring to the work and challenges of the Organisation.

This session includes considerations relevant to Article XI of the Convention. We hope that the workshop scheduled for November this year will provide an opportunity to examine new initiatives aimed at assisting developing countries in making advancements in the peaceful use of chemistry and facilitate the exchange of chemicals, equipment, and technical and scientific information. We believe that the regional approaches to the matters that will be discussed will be useful, and we are calling for the delegations that will be presenting to put

forward concrete and viable proposals for discussion that will allow us to make progress on the goals we have set.

We support the Programme and Budget for next year, which brings together a variety of interests and programmes in a balanced way and without increasing regular contributions. We value the efforts of the Secretariat in applying the principle of results-based management and the development of a more systematic approach to monitoring and evaluating activities. We are also aware of the requirements for the upcoming Review Conference, and we support the establishment of a special fund for the Fourth Review Conference.

We urge the Technical Secretariat to continue moving forward in developing a document on strategic financing, as requested by the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF).

With regard to the challenges presented to the Convention by non-State actors, which include terrorists, we recognise the importance of persevering in the work on the three areas identified as central for the implementation of the Convention. We will continue to collaborate on the analyses within the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We will count on deepening working relations with other bodies and partners on this issue, in addition to exploring the possibility of adopting a decision reflecting all common positions.

Likewise, the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities is progressing with its analyses, and we are confident that the issues addressed therein will lead us in the right direction as we approach next year's Review Conference. Among other priorities, we support the modernisation of the OPCW Laboratory.

As it has been three years, we would like to recognise the positive evaluation by the Technical Secretariat of the implementation of the decision to re-hire inspectors adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Nineteenth Session. We have noted that this method has meant support in the transmission of knowledge, and perfecting technical competencies and experience via the re-hiring of inspectors, which has been of benefit during the transition period that the Organisation is currently undergoing. These inspectors constitute a fundamental tool in the transfer of knowledge and the establishment of capabilities in new generations, and their selection should continue to be an option, as long as all geographical distribution and qualification criteria are met.

While recognising that the OPCW is a non-career organisation, we have been willing to support efforts to find a formula that would ensure the retention of capabilities that would in turn make it possible to continue to rely upon generations of inspectors, guidance for which will be provided by those who came before them, without prejudice to consideration of more permanent guidelines at the Fourth Review Conference.

Based on these points of progress, it seems necessary to continue to provide the Director-General with the ability to re-hire experienced inspectors to ensure that these goals are met at the OPCW, particularly for responding to contingencies.

Finally, my delegation reiterates its wish to have the issue of central-nervous-system-acting chemicals and riot control agents—and their potential use as chemical weapons—considered

within the framework of the efforts to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons at this Organisation.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Executive Council and published on the OPCW webpage.

Thank you.

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