

**STATEMENT BY MS. ROSE SUMBEIYWO, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I, OF THE  
REPUBLIC OF KENYA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS (OPCW) AT THE 88<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE  
COUNCIL OF THE OPCW - WEDNESDAY, JULY 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2018**

**Madam Chairperson, Mr. Director General, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

1. Prior to making my remarks – on behalf of the Kenyan Delegation – I would like to take the opportunity to welcome you, Ambassador Jana Reinišová, as the Chair of the Executive Council. Our delegation is confident in your competent leadership to expertly steer the sessions of the Council to a successful conclusion.
2. Further, I extend my delegation's appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed BELAL of Bangladesh on the commendable work that he did during the preceding session of the Council, as its Chair.
3. The Kenyan Delegation is fully aligned with the Statements of the African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as that of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement to the Convention and China, that were delivered by the respective Coordinators, **H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab BELLOUKI** of the Kingdom of Morocco and **H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami MADAH** of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
4. **Madam Chairperson**, allow me to express our gratitude to the Director-General, **H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü**, for his report and to his exceptional team at the Technical Secretariat for their continued briefings and updates on the work being done towards the elimination of Chemical Weapons - and the threat posed by them. The Kenyan Delegation further wishes to appreciate you, Ambassador Üzümcü, for your service to our Organisation; we are certain that you will leave a memorable imprint on the Organisation, which among other accolades, includes the OPCW being awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace in 2013. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

**Madam Chairperson**

5. The Kenyan delegation welcomes the continuation of the fourth phase of the Africa Programme, for another three-year period, per the December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 Decision of the Conference of States Parties. This is a programme that has provided the strategic direction for the Secretariat's engagement with African State Parties in regards to the implementation of the Convention. The effective and efficient execution of this Programme is vital for Kenya, as well as for other African State Parties.

6. Kenya welcomes and appreciates the pragmatic and inclusive approach adopted by the Director-General to enhance the Africa Programme, and for this reason, welcomes the inaugural Steering Committee meeting that was held on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, bringing together African States Parties, donors and the Technical Secretariat. We look forward to the augmentation of the Committee's work in the Programme.
7. Kenya also remains vehemently committed to the comprehensive implementation of the Chemical Weapon Convention and its objectives, in order to prohibit the misuse of all toxic chemicals, regardless of their type or origin. To this end, Kenya believes in the equal implementation of the four pillars of the Convention.
8. Furthermore, Kenya recognises and appreciates the work being done by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, particularly on the push to ensure a greater number of African State Parties have national Convention implementation legislation. Kenya is yet to instate the Convention and we hope to continue to systematically and broadly engage the OPCW on this issue. Specifically, we look forward to engaging the Secretariat through mechanisms that will help in the sensitisation of especially critical decision makers, with the view of simplifying and fast tracking the process of domestication.
9. **Madam Chairperson**, the Kenyan delegation would like to commend and continue to encourage the Technical Secretariat to maintain its engagements with the continental body, the African Union and also with the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its quest for comprehensive implementation of the Convention. These Regional Economic Communities form critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union, which can and will continue to provide appropriate economies of scale in the implementation of the Convention. As noted earlier in our Group Statement, tailor-made Assistance and Protection activities will serve to highlight the complementary nature of the OPCW and the African Union's activities of promoting international peace and security through disarmament and non-proliferation.
10. Finally, **Madam Chairperson**, I would like to reiterate our appreciation to all the State Parties, the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for continuing with their efforts that are geared towards making our collective objective of a world free of chemical weapons a reality. Similarly, we would like to thank those partner State Parties that have made and continue to make voluntary contributions towards these endeavours. We believe that these efforts will continue to inform the Organisation's future priorities in regards to cooperation and assistance, capacity building and the promotion of the role of chemistry for sustainable development.
11. To conclude my remarks, **Madam Chairperson**, I would like to express Kenya's wholehearted support to the incoming Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias. Ambassador Arias can count on our unwavering support and we look forward

to working cooperatively with him, and the Technical Secretariat, to further strengthen the unity of the Organisation and advance the objectives of the Convention.

12. Thank you for your attention and I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session and a copy be placed on the OPCW Extranet.