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KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Excellency the Director-General,
Excellencies, heads of delegation,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, it is my pleasure to welcome you once again, Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki, the Permanent Representative of the sisterly Kingdom of Morocco. We are confident that your wisdom and wide diplomatic experience will undoubtedly contribute to the success of this special session of the Conference. I am also pleased to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency the Director-General of the Organisation, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his dedication, outstanding efforts and impartiality throughout his term of office, which have helped develop the work and independence of the Organisation.

My country's delegation wishes to take this opportunity to welcome warmly the beloved State of Palestine as a member of the OPCW. Its participation will add great value to the work of the Organisation and we look forward to working together in the coming meetings. Indeed, Palestine's accession to the Convention is an important step towards achieving its universality.

Faithful to its constant policy aimed at enhancing cooperation for the prohibition and non-proliferation of all types of weapons of mass destruction, and convinced of the objectives of the Convention and its role in enhancing international peace and security, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was one of the first States to sign and ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention and to implement it on the national and international levels. In this context, my country's delegation urges all States not Party to the Convention to join it soon.

It is unfortunate that, more than two decades after the creation of our Organisation, we are still witnessing the large scale use of chemical weapons in flagrant defiance of the will of the international community and in blatant violation of the provisions and objectives of the Convention, in a suspicious scene where the use of chemical weapons has become normal and repeated in recent years. On the other hand, there is a shameful international failure to put an end to such use, which has taken us back scores of years, and we are now standing face to face with a great danger that threatens our collective security. In this regard, my country's delegation appreciates the sense of responsibility and cooperation demonstrated by all, and



the prompt response to the call to hold this meeting in order to examine the serious developments concerning the use of chemical weapons.

The use of chemical weapons under any circumstances is intolerable and reprehensible and must be condemned in the strongest terms. While condemning the use of chemical weapons in Syria, Iraq, Malaysia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, my country's delegation emphasises that condemnation alone, without practical measures, has not prevented the use of these weapons and will not prevent it in the future. My country's delegation has also repeatedly warned against politicising the work of the Organisation and questioning its intentions, given the enormous negative impact this has on the international regime as a whole. Here we would like to stress the full support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the work, professionalism and credibility of the Organisation and its categorical rejection of the questioning of its professionalism or challenging of its integrity.

The Organisation has responded to the use of chemical weapons in Syria with complete silence, despite the large number of reports issued by the Fact-Finding Mission in Syria, which determined that chemical weapons were used in Syria, including the most recent use of chlorine and sarin as chemical weapons in Saraqib and Ltamenah. Similarly, the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism unequivocally concluded in its seventh report that the Syrian regime and ISIS used chemical weapons. While condemning the use of these deadly weapons in Syria, my country's delegation calls upon all parties concerned to stop using these weapons immediately and completely and for all individuals and entities involved in such use to be held accountable.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, looking from a political perspective alone, and granting fake interests preference over the objectives of the Organisation, not only threatens the Organisation and puts its credibility at stake, but also puts us today on a dangerous slippery slope, threatening the security of our peoples and destabilising international peace and security. While expressing its serious concern over the continued use of chemical weapons, my country's delegation emphasises that the only way to stop these crimes is for the international community, with all its legal institutions and frameworks, to stand up and assume its moral and legal responsibility through identifying and bringing before international justice all those who have caused these horrific crimes.

Thank you for your kind attention.

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