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REPUBLIC OF KOREA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR YUN-YOUNG LEE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to begin by offering my full confidence that this meeting will indeed be guided to a successful outcome under the able and excellent leadership of Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his report yesterday and his ceaseless dedication to make the OPCW a more efficient and successful disarmament institution throughout his tenure.

The Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW have played a crucial role in carrying out the challenging tasks involved in striving towards a world free of chemical weapons since the entry into force of the Convention in 1997. There is no doubt that the OPCW has made a remarkable achievement in the area of destroying declared chemical weapons.

However, we have been witnessing ominously new developments regarding the use of chemical weapons over the past few years. First of all, as confirmed by the recent Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) report, sarin and chlorine were very likely used as chemical weapons on 24-25 March 2017 in the Syrian Arab Republic. Chemical weapons continue to be used in vulnerable States involved in civil war or political turmoil. In addition, chemical weapons use by non-State actors for terrorist purposes, as well as their use against targeted individuals, have emerged in an unchecked way. We have seen these worrisome incidents across the continents in recent years.

My delegation condemns all such uses of chemical weapons in the strongest possible terms. At the same time, my delegation is deeply concerned about such alarming use of chemical weapons, which has emerged as an urgent challenge not only to the Convention regime but also to international security as a whole.

These concerns have been intensified by the international community's inability to make a proper follow-up action to the reports of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) in 2016 and 2017, as well as the failure of the United Nations Security Council in renewing



the mandate of the JIM in 2017. Impunity will embolden perpetrators and bring about more attacks.

The States Parties, as the last bastion of the Convention norms, are gathered here today to uphold and strengthen the Convention regime and to deter any future use of chemical weapons in the face of these worrisome developments. In order to hold those responsible for the use of chemical weapons in the past to account, and to prevent any use of chemical weapons in the future, my delegation is of the view that in the absence of the JIM, the global community needs an attribution mechanism.

Bearing in mind that our preeminent goal is to leave a safer world for our next generation, my delegation hopes that, by pooling our collective wisdom for our ultimate goal of a world free of chemical weapons, we will witness a remarkable achievement during this special session. Thank you.

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