

## KENYA DELEGATION

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LAWRENCE LENAYAPA, CBS,  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
KENYA TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL  
WEAPONS (OPCW) AT THE 89<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL –  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> TO FRIDAY, 12<sup>TH</sup>, 2018

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

1. In my first remarks as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the OPCW, I take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome back, **Ambassador Janař REINIŠOVÁ**, as the Chair of the Executive Council. My delegation is confident in your capable and experienced leadership to expertly steer this session of the Council to a successful conclusion.
2. **Madam Chair**, allow me to also congratulate and warmly welcome the new Director-General, **H.E. Ambassador Fernando ARIAS**. I assure Your Excellency of my delegation's full support and collaborative cooperation in achieving the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Moreover, I wholeheartedly appreciate the Director General's informative and comprehensive statement delivered one the first day of this Session.

**Madam 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, which 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.

**Madam Chair**

4. 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 continues to provide the strategic

direction for the Secretariat's engagement with African State Parties in regards to the implementation of the Convention. We consider that the effective and efficient execution of this Programme will be vital for Kenya to attain the objective of the Convention. This is true as well for other African State Parties.

5. The Steering Committee, which brings together African States Parties, donors and the Technical Secretariat, is one of the constructive and coherent ways of enhancing the Africa Programme. Kenya welcomes this methodology of executing the Programme and looks forward to receiving the report of the Committee's inaugural meeting of July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.
6. As already referenced, Kenya remains robustly committed to the comprehensive implementation of the Chemical Weapon Convention and its objectives, as a durable barrier against the re-emergence of chemical weapons and also to guard against 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.
7. In keeping with this, therefore, Kenya recognises and appreciates the work being done by the OPCW's International Cooperation and Assistance Division, with our National Authority and we seek to continue to be a valuable partner to this end. Accordingly, Kenya appreciates and welcomes the convening of an OPCW Training Course on Medical Aspects of Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons for African State Parties in Nairobi, Kenya from **October 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2018**. This is the first time that this course is being held in Africa and we look forward to a successful outcome.
8. Equally, we acknowledge and welcome the efforts and support from the Organisation in ensuring that a greater number of African State Parties have national Convention implementation legislation. Kenya is yet to adopt the Convention domestically in its national laws. As a way of reinvigorating this process of domestic adoption, the Government has made some changes at the National Authority to provide a more robust mandate for progress and appropriate fit from a policy perspective. In addition to this, Kenya's National Authority is keen on innovative ways that can help fast track and revitalize the country's quest for National Implementation, including high level engagement with relevant institutions and prominent individuals in Kenya, including critical decision makers. This is with the ultimate view of simplifying and fast tracking the process of domestic policy adoption.

Madam Chair,

9. The Kenyan delegation commends and continues to encourage the Technical Secretariat to maintain its engagements with the continental body, the African Union and the various Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in its quest for comprehensive implementation of the Convention. African Regional Economic Communities form critical Peace and Security Infrastructures of the African Union and these 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 Chair, I reiterate our appreciation to all the State Parties, the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for continuing with efforts that are geared towards making our collective objective of a world free of chemical weapons a reality. Kenya urges all States Parties and stakeholders to seek methods of work that strive for consensus, as the standard set out by the Convention, particularly in the informal consultations on Programme and Budget, as well as those on the Fourth Review Conference. This is paramount to achieve the goal of promoting and safeguarding international peace and the security architecture, as well as multilateralism in general.
  
11. Thank you for your attention. I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session and a copy be placed on the OPCW Extranet.

