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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REGINA CORDEIRO DUNLOP
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL
TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

Brazil welcomes you once again, Ambassador Jana Reinizová, as Chairperson of the Executive Council. I'd like to express our appreciation for your efforts and guidance, as well as to reassure you of our full support in the challenging tasks ahead.

I would also like to recognise Ambassador Fernando Arias in his first Executive Council session as our Director-General, and to offer him the warmest congratulations on his election, as the consensus candidate to the post of Director-General of the OPCW.

During the selection process, he showed us deep knowledge of the topics pertaining to the OPCW, which is a result of his experience as permanent representative, as well of his careful preparation.

His election by consensus reveals the knowledge and confidence States Parties have towards him, and at the same time strengthens the credibility of the Organisation. We expect this to be a positive omen for the return of consensus for decision making in the OPCW, for the sake of its better functioning and external projection.

Madam Chairperson,

This session of the Executive Council brings to our attention several important issues to be considered by this Council in the unique context of the preparations for the Fourth Review Conference. To that end, States Parties have been working extensively in the past months under the able leadership of Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, of Indonesia, who joined Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, from El Salvador, President of the Fourth Review Conference, and Ambassador Paul van den Ijsel, Permanent Representative of the Netherlands, hosts of the very productive retreat that took place last Friday.

Madam Chairperson,

As stated before, Brazil strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances. We look forward to receiving updates on the investigations by the Fact-Finding Mission on the use of chemical weapons in Syria. We reiterate our support to the Technical Secretariat, and encourage its work. We also recognise the Syrian efforts to fully



implement its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and prompt them to continue to cooperate with the Secretariat in clarifying pending issues.

Madam Chairperson,

The results of recent technical assistance visits by the Secretariat have shown us that the use of toxic chemicals as weapons is a reality that goes beyond conflict zones. This calls for us to stay more alert than ever, as well as to make efforts to gauge up our analytical and response capabilities as much as possible.

Reported cases of use of chemical weapons, which may affect hundreds, if not thousands of people, call for cooperation among states parties, with a view to achieving a degree of preparedness equal to the risks we are exposed to. Brazil has been both a receiver and a provider of international assistance, and has the expectation to continue contributing in this regard. States parties of all regions must be in a position to face chemical emergencies, regardless of their nature.

Madam Chairperson,

We have been attentively following the first steps in the implementation of the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Given the relevance of this decision, we expect the attribution activities by the OPCW, including their financial and budgetary implications, to be implemented after thorough and inclusive discussions among states parties in the coming Review Conference. The proposals deserve consideration by states parties in their own right, instead of being inserted in the context of existing facilitations. In Brazil's view, budgetary implications of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018, could be better gauged after deliberations on the mandate, format, and composition of the office of attribution

The Technical Secretariat has presented a Draft Programme and Budget for 2019 that departs for the first time in several years from the practice of zero nominal growth. While we commend the efforts of the facilitator and of interested delegations, the resulting increase in assessed contributions would pose significant difficulties for Brazil.

We are ready to engage in discussions in this topic with a view to finding the necessary balance, considering the financial restraints of States Parties, and the core activities of the Organisation, particularly in the area of capacity building and international cooperation. In this and in all other matters under consideration by the Executive Council, we stress once again our strong preference for unified and consensual decisions.

Thank you.