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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY H.E. LUIS JAVIER CAMPUZANO PIÑA
DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR THE UNITED NATIONS OF THE SECRETARIAT
OF FOREIGN RELATIONS OF MEXICO AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW
THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,
Ministers, Ambassadors, delegates,
Dear representatives of civil society,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am grateful for the opportunity to take the floor and recognise the hard work carried out prior to the holding of this Conference.

My delegation expresses its appreciation to Ambassador Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja for his dedication in the preparation of this Fourth Review Conference; to Ambassador Jana Reinišová for her great achievements as Chairperson of the Executive Council, and our support for Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference, who has decidedly endeavoured to foster consensus among the States Parties, even in the more complex moments of the negotiations.

Proof of this was the retreat of ambassadors and experts, which was organized in collaboration with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, in order to ensure a friendly environment, where all concerns of the delegations could be expressed.

My delegation believes that the difficulties we are facing in reaching a consensus represent for all the States Parties present at this Conference the best opportunity to overcome these obstacles. We trust that the leadership of Ambassador Vásquez will help us achieve a positive result.

We offer our full support to the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias and the Secretariat, in their efforts to make the mandates that will result from this Fourth Review Conference a reality. This Conference will surely leave a very special mark on history, since today, in the face of technological and scientific advances, as well as the worldwide political environment, the Organisation is in need of a renewal of its working methods and a greater effort to meet the great challenges and secure the common welfare.



The fundamental task of this Review Conference is to reflect on the past five years, in order to recognise the areas in which we have been able to move forward, and also to identify the issues where the implementation of the Convention requires more effectiveness, as well as to determine our actions for the next five years. The challenge of evaluating ourselves implies endeavouring to continue to conserve the technical essence of the Organisation and to avoid its politicisation.

The Government of Mexico agrees with what was expressed at the Third Review Conference, namely that nothing justifies the use of chemical weapons or their existence anywhere in the territory of the States Parties. All States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) have the obligation to strive to overcome our disagreements and fulfil the promise of a “World Free of Chemical Weapons”. We can achieve this by accepting that international assistance and cooperation are pillars of the Convention, established in Articles VII, X, and XI, and that they should be implemented as broadly as possible to benefit the economic development of the States Parties.

The foregoing implies the transfer of technology, materials, equipment, improvement of capabilities, and chemical knowledge for purposes not prohibited by our global pact. We are confident that the Secretariat and the Director-General will provide the necessary support to accomplish these aspirations enshrined in the Convention.

Conserving the integrity of the Convention requires that, in light of the challenges of the next five years, the States Parties renew our commitment to this global norm, which, for more than 20 years has been applied successfully, resulting in the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical weapons being awarded with the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013. The Convention is the best example of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

The commitment of the States Parties in this Review Conference must be a common effort towards the goals of reaching universality in the broadest sense—that is to say that it must incorporate all members of the international community; complete the total destruction of chemical weapons, regardless of where they are located; continue to combat the threats that emerge from advances in technology and chemical science, including the new generation of toxic nerve agents; implement the provisions of the Convention to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons; and create a broad programme of assistance and international cooperation in chemistry, which can be monitored by an evaluation mechanism.

The Government of Mexico regrets and condemns categorically and completely the use of chemical weapons that has taken place in several countries, such as the Syrian Arab Republic, Malaysia, and the United Kingdom. Likewise, my government believes that the best way to prevent these incidents is by identifying those who have violated the Convention, and, eventually, bringing them to justice through national or international conventional mechanisms.

My Government would like to emphasise the importance and scope of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018) “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use”. This decision seeks to identify those who have used these horrendous weapons, whether state or non-state actors, have facilitated or have allowed any perpetrator to use chemical weapons.

Against this background, the States Parties to the Convention must not remain impassive, nor can we put our differences before our common efforts and the objectives of our Convention.

The Fourth Review Conference gives us the opportunity to bring together the positions of the different delegations, especially since we are all fully in agreement that the use of chemical weapons is absolutely unacceptable anywhere, at any time, and for any reason. Therefore, it is in the interest of all parties to preserve the integrity of the Convention, as well as to enable the OPCW, to carry out its operational activities in the most efficient and effective way.

Destroying chemical weapons arsenals and production facilities; dedicating efforts to control the trade in chemicals; promoting the educational efforts and directing production towards peaceful purposes; avoiding pollution of the atmosphere and the seas; providing assistance and broadening international cooperation; improving inspection and verification methods; preventing chemical incidents and accidents; expanding the faculties and response capabilities in case of events that endanger human beings and their environment; and, of course, avoiding the re-emergence of such lethal weapons and their aftermath, are objectives that we have set ourselves as members of a united international community and that this Review Conference will surely preserve.

The delegation of my country would like to make the following observation regarding the final document of this Conference. We believe that this document can and should be a consensus document, based on an ability to reflect, the advances, the obstacles, their causes, the discrepancies, and the suggestions for the future.

The Government of Mexico welcomes that the provisional text that we will be analysing contains 117 paragraphs that have been approved ad-referendum and that there the delegations have shown a willingness to overcome the different points of view on the rest of the paragraphs. It should be noted that, in this process, the delegation of Mexico has participated and will continue to do so, both at an individual and regional level.

Mexico welcomes the initiatives aimed at strengthening the structure and capabilities of the OPCW, which is why it attaches great importance to this negotiation process.

We are faced with an opportunity for joint action to prevent the use of these weapons from continuing to constitute a grave and flagrant violation of international law, international humanitarian law and human rights. We invite the delegations of the States Parties participating in this Conference to act as a united front.

Thank you very much

I would request that this document be considered a public and official document of this meeting.

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