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BRAZIL

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to express Brazil's appreciation for your relentless work in the chairmanship of the Executive Council ("the Council"). We are all aware that, even though it is a very distinguished position, it is time-consuming and requires a considerable amount of personal sacrifice.

May I also take this opportunity to convey Brazil's recognition to Director-General Fernando Arias, for his sensitive and sensible leadership and his steady efforts to restore the consensus culture in our Organisation. Ambassador Arias will continue to count on the full support of the Brazilian delegation in the fulfilment of his duties.

Brazil welcomes the newly appointed directors and wishes them success in the important tasks they have ahead of them. They can also count on our delegation for any needed support. In this regard, we would like to highlight the dedicated work of the various branches of the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat") and Subsidiary Bodies. During the recent process of evaluation of the proposals of inclusion of new substances in the Annex on Chemicals to the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"), the Brazilian experts' team assigned to the case coincided with the Secretariat in their analyses. We congratulate all the technical body of OPCW for their efforts to provide the State Parties and the Director-General with the means to implement the Convention.

Brazil has followed with great concern the Report of the Fact-Finding Mission regarding the incident of alleged use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in Douma. In the document (S/1731/2019, dated 1 March 2019), we read that there are "reasonable grounds [to conclude] that the use of a toxic chemical [- most likely molecular chlorine -] as a weapon took place". I hereby reaffirm that Brazil strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances.

According to the Programme and Budget approved for this year in the last session of the Conference of the State Parties, the Director-General shall soon conclude the arrangements for setting the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). We expect the IIT to serve not only as a measure for addressing current threats arising from chemical weapons use but also as an effective tool for the OPCW to prevent the re-emergence of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemicals as warfare material.



In order to fully comply with the provisions set in the Convention, Brazil is keen on international cooperation, capacity building, and technological and economic development through the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry. We, therefore, encourage the OPCW to keep fostering and strengthening activities and programmes related to those areas. The Organisation should make sure that all states parties, through cooperation and access to technology, are in a position to fully implement the provisions of the Convention.

In this process, due regard should be given to the right of states parties to economic and technological development, including the exchange of scientific and technical information, chemicals and equipment for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. Brazil is both a promoter and a beneficiary of capacity building and international cooperation initiatives. Brazil has contributed, and will continue to do so, to the OPCW efforts in this area by sponsoring participants in the Associate Programme, by engaging in the Mentorship and Partnership Programme, and by hosting courses and seminars in several areas.

Recent incidents with the use of toxic chemicals, including by non-State actors, demonstrate the relevance of giving priority to ensuring that states parties are prepared to provide assistance and protection against chemical weapons. As incidents of this kind or even industrial accidents may happen in any state party, capacity-building activities, including enhancing laboratory capabilities, should be fostered in all regions. Brazil thus supports the expansion of the OPCW laboratory, as well as the extension of the OPCW designated laboratory network to Africa and to Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Secretariat should be able to retain acquired expertise, and also to continually train new staff, pursuant to existing rules such as the tenure policy, with the adaptations and flexibility that may be deemed necessary. As relevant as all the tasks ahead of the Secretariat are, Brazil believes that it is possible to achieve them with a zero nominal growth budget. We believe that, through a constructive dialogue between the State Parties and the Secretariat, the current available resources can be efficiently allocated in order to provide for all the areas of the Convention.

Thank you.

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