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ALGERIA

**STATEMENT BY MR MOURAD AMOKRANE
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PERMANENT MISSION OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I should like to express the great satisfaction of the delegation of Algeria in seeing Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy preside over this Ninety-First Session of the OPCW Executive Council. We are convinced that his leadership will positively bear on the success of the work during this session.

The Algerian delegation would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General of the Organisation, Mr Fernando Arias, for his opening statement, which was full of detail and information about the efforts the Technical Secretariat continues to undertake to achieve the objectives of our Organisation.

It is also clear that the Algerian delegation fully aligns itself with the statements made by the Ambassador of Venezuela, H.E. Ms Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, and by the Ambassador of the Sudan, H.E. Mr Kamal Bashir Ahmed, on behalf of the African Group.

This session comes at a time of change for the Organisation. This is an important step for its future will be marked essentially by challenges of a political, technical, and organisational nature that it is called upon to address. It is in this context that Algeria reiterates the importance of universality, a prerequisite for achieving the overriding objective of the Convention, namely, the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles, to which Algeria attaches great importance.

The Algerian delegation would take this opportunity to reaffirm in the strongest terms its condemnation of the use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances, and considers that any use of chemical weapons is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of the rules of international law.



At this stage, my delegation is pleased with the progress made by possessor States in the destruction of their declared stockpiles, and we encourage the remainder to complete the destruction of the remaining stockpiles within the deadlines established.

Today we must realise that this Organisation is one devoted to collective peace and whose primary objective is to rid the world of all chemical weapons, an objective that should effectively contribute to establishing international peace and security. Working towards this objective, let us recall, earned the Organisation the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, thanks to the preservation of its technical nature and its collective commitment. Together we must all continue to work towards, and not counter to, this objective of peace.

It is in this spirit of dialogue and cooperation that has always prevailed in the Organisation that, today, we harbour the hope of seeing all stakeholders continue the discussions on the subject of Syria, in particular between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities to clarify, as soon as possible, all of the outstanding issues and to definitively rectify this dossier which has weighed so heavily on the Organisation's agenda. It is important to develop a constructive and inclusive dialogue on the various issues of this dossier in order to further strengthen the objectivity and credibility of the work that is under way.

Algeria is also pleased with the progress made in Africa in particular, through the implementation of the Programme for Africa. The fifth phase of this programme should again be centred on the strengthening of capacities and the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry for development purposes.

To achieve this, the Technical Secretariat should develop, in collaboration with the African States Parties, a new approach for developing specific programmes that take into account regional priorities and specificities, in particular with regard to the strengthening of laboratories' capacities and the establishment of centres of excellence.

While reiterating the value of voluntary contributions to this programme, we must work at making it fixed in the regular budget of the Organisation in order to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability.

As to the proposal of the member countries of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China regarding the establishment of an open-ended working group to identify matters on which a consensus can be found, the Algerian delegation considers it essential to encourage positive and concrete dialogue among delegations within this working group in order to remedy the failings during the Fourth Review Conference.

We encourage the two facilitators, the Ambassadors of Indonesia and El Salvador, to continue the interactive dialogue with a view to setting up this open-ended working group and to examining all issues that are still on the table, in particular those that were left to be dealt with in facilitations and which have not produced expected results, in a constructive manner with concrete programmes, with the ultimate goal of strengthening and consolidating the implementation of the Convention.

With regard to the Organisation's tenure policy, the Algerian delegation aligns itself with the position of the Non-Aligned Movement and China in favour of a transparent, flexible, and inclusive approach. It believes that all of the concerns of States Parties will have to be taken into account, in particular regarding equal geographical representation in the Technical Secretariat.

At this time, and as the Organisation turns to the exercise of transforming the OPCW Laboratory into a Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) and to taking account of the frustrations induced from the failure of the Fourth Review Conference, in particular on issues on which a consensus could be found, the Algerian delegation maintains the hope of seeing the following observations taken into account in the strategy of the Organisation:

- (a) The implementation of the four pillars of the Convention, namely Articles VI, VII, X and XI, remains an indispensable objective to guarantee the non-re-emergence of chemical weapons in the future. In this context, the Director-General's initiative to transform the OPCW Laboratory into a ChemTech Centre could play a crucial role to bridge this gap.
- (b) We hope that the strengthening of capacities of States Parties in the area of international assistance and protection will become an increasingly tangible reality in the Organisation's practice.
- (c) The National Authorities, which are a credible source of information for the Organisation, play a crucial role in implementation of the Convention; accordingly, it is important to strengthen their technical and operational capacities in order to prevent the use of chemicals for prohibited purposes.
- (d) Algeria considers that the Convention is complete and constitutes an unavoidable instrument for ensuring chemical disarmament and non-proliferation, and that it is up to the States Parties to define how to tackle these new challenges to ensure the relevance and viability of the Convention in the future.

With that we encourage the Director-General to continue his efforts aimed at rediscovering the balance and confidence among all the States Parties with regard to the current concerns and future requirements of the Organisation.

Finally, I would ask that this document be considered as an official document of this session and that it be published on the Organisation's website.

I thank you.

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