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STATE OF PALESTINE

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Dear colleagues, members of delegation,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate H.E. Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy as he takes the position of Chairperson of the Executive Council. We are all confident that his vast experience and high level of competence will enable him to steer the deliberations of this session towards the desired objectives. We pledge our unwavering support to the Chairperson as we strive to implement all the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We align ourselves with the statement delivered by H.E. Haifa Aissami Madah, Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, in her capacity as the coordinator for the Group of Members States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are Parties to the Convention, and China. My country's delegation wishes to remind this distinguished Council of the objectives for which this Convention has been established, i.e. the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction. Hence, all States Parties must act within the legal scope of the Convention, and this distinguished Council must reject emphatically any attempt by anyone to impose their political agendas and include issues that are outside the scope of the provisions and principles enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The State of Palestine reiterates its position, which calls for respecting the sovereignty of States and their domestic regimes, and reaffirms its solidarity with Venezuela's legitimate aspirations for more stability, unity, and prosperity through a peaceful and inclusive national dialogue. We also call for the respect of the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of another State. This principle reinforces and completes a State's sovereignty over its own territory. Any interference in a State's domestic affairs undermines and undercuts its sovereignty. The principle of sovereignty and independence does not apply only to major or strong States. Rather, international instruments stipulate that all States, large and small, have equal rights and obligations.

My country's delegation also wishes to underline the principle stipulating that States shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. We also underscore the principle of the peaceful settlement



of international disputes and the need to refrain from interfering in affairs that are at the core of a State's national jurisdiction in accordance with the United Nations instruments.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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