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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ANTONIO ZABALGOITIA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Distinguished Permanent Representatives,

As I welcome the opportunity to address this Executive Council, I am pleased to recognise, on behalf of the Government of Mexico, the contribution to our work made by H.E. Andrea Perugini, Ambassador of Italy, as the Chairperson of this Council. Likewise, we voice our support for H.E. Agustín Vásquez, Ambassador of El Salvador, who will soon be taking on this responsibility.

The Government of Mexico has noted the report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and extends its recognition to the staff of the Organisation.

My government, in reiterating its historic commitment to international peace and security, strongly urges those states that are not yet parties to the Convention to accede to it or ratify this important instrument, without any preconditions. The universality of the Convention is both an aspiration and a commitment.

Mexico assigns high priority to the efforts related to the destruction of arsenals, and receives the national documents submitted by the United States on the progress made in this area, as well as the documents concerning the cooperation between China and Japan on identifying and eliminating abandoned chemical weapons in that country. We urge these States Parties to continue to accelerate their respective destruction processes.

This representation also welcomes the timely reports on the elimination of chemical weapons in Syria, which demonstrate the progress achieved at the twenty-second round of consultations with the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT). Nevertheless, this representation is concerned by the suspension of the twenty-third round of consultations. We are confident that political resolve can help overcome the obstacles that have hindered it.

In this regard, we urge the authorities of the Syrian Arab Republic to continue with the full realisation of its obligations under the Convention and to clarify all issues that remain unresolved in its initial declaration.



Mexico reiterates its pacifist stance, and its confidence in the effective and professional international control exercised by the OPCW in order to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons, thus contributing to international peace and security.

We condemn the development, possession, use, or threat of use of chemical weapons everywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances. Likewise, we condemn any technical assistance or provision of tools or raw materials to develop chemical weapons. We reaffirm that in any case in which chemical weapons have been used, there is responsibility, and these criminal acts must not remain unpunished.

We welcome the objective of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) of the OPCW in Syria to analyse all available information and to examine any new evidence or testimony. In this regard, we support the professionalism and methodology of the FFM's inspectors.

The Government of Mexico is convinced that accuracy in any FFM report is essential in order to meet the objectives of the OPCW, and that the information that is compiled is supported by the absolute professionalism of the staff involved. We have no doubt that the report that will be submitted by the coordinator of the Investigation and Identification Team will meet those high standards.

We are confident in the experience and abilities of Mr Santiago Oñate and the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias, and believe that - based on the integrity that characterises this Organisation - they will submit a solid, responsible, and direct report that will serve as a deterrent against any future use of chemical weapons in any armed conflict.

The Government of Mexico notes the importance that the Technical Secretariat assigns to the implementation of Article X and XI of the Convention, which brings with it the realisation of programmes aimed at strengthening assistance, protection, and international cooperation. However, it is fundamental that adequate financial, technical, and human resources are allocated to the extent that each region or country requires. In this regard, the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC) hopes that the Technical Secretariat will be able to provide a specific policy to support the design of the Regional Cooperation Programme, which is currently under development, and its subsequent implementation.

The modernisation of the old OPCW Laboratory will not only reinforce the capacities of the Technical Secretariat in terms of its response to potential chemical attacks, but it will also support the States Parties in providing them with chemical knowledge for peaceful purposes. Mexico celebrates this initiative, which brought the Centre for Chemistry and Technology to life.

We should not be fearful of the future; we should be motivated to consider that technical and scientific advances may take us down paths with disastrous effects for humankind, as could be the case with the use of aerosolised central nervous system-acting chemicals. The Government of Mexico realistically notes that this issue should be the subject of an in-depth analysis in the political arena, but above all, it should be very carefully considered by the Scientific Advisory Board. A solid scientific basis will serve as an incentive for achieving a united membership.

The OPCW faces a complex scenario that urges us to double our efforts to consolidate our successes with those from which the international community has already benefited. Let us once again take advantage of the international frameworks of multilateralism to support the integrity and prestige of the OPCW, and above all to make chemistry a tool for peace and building bridges between the States Parties.

We kindly request that this statement be considered a public and official document of this session.

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