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SWITZERLAND

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HEINZ WALKER-NEDERKOORN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF SWITZERLAND TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor and I would also like to thank the Director-General for his statement.

Switzerland welcomes the recent publication of the report on the investigation into alleged breaches of the OPCW's confidentiality regime. The findings from this investigation confirmed the view that we have consistently taken: that the OPCW conducted its work on the Syrian dossier professionally and impartially. It is regrettable that selective information was leaked by individuals who do not have the entire view on the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission's work. We condemn the attempts by certain parties to use these leaks for political purposes and to discredit the Organisation.

We continue to have every confidence in the quality of the work undertaken by the OPCW, the Director-General, and the Technical Secretariat. Switzerland stands ready to support any measures that the Director-General deems necessary to undertake in order to prevent future breaches of confidentiality, and thus preserve the OPCW's integrity.

Switzerland recently made a voluntary contribution of CHF 200,000 for the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology, and a further contribution of CHF 100,000 to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions. The OPCW Laboratory has a crucial role to play and we hope that support from various donors will enable the OPCW to remain at the forefront of technical and scientific developments. The OPCW's Syria missions have Switzerland's full backing, as the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission, and the Investigation and Identification Team are carrying out essential work in gathering all the relevant information with a view to stopping the use of chemical weapons in Syria and ensuring compliance with international law.

Lastly, I would like to thank the many States Parties that support our initiative regarding the aerosolised use of central nervous system (CNS)-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes. As discussions continue during this session of the Executive Council in preparation for a decision by the Conference of the States Parties in November 2020, I call on all States Parties to join the group of supporters working to eliminate the risks posed by CNS-acting chemicals.

Thank you.

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