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**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR. HISSA ABDULLA ALOTAIBA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

I would like to welcome the Ambassador of El-Salvador, H.E. Agustin Vasquez Gomez as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in his leadership of the Council. I wish to thank the H.E. Andrea Perugini, Ambassador of Italy for his efforts to the work of Executive Council, and the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Fernando Arias and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council, for their reports.

The United Arab Emirates would like to express its appreciation of the efforts of the Executive Council office and the Technical Secretariat staff to prepare for this session despite the outbreak of the pandemic, and we wish the successful conclusion of this session and all upcoming sessions.

The UAE would like to express its commitment to cooperate with the Organisation and the States Parties, through its membership in the Executive Council, in order to achieve the goals of the Organisation and to ensure the effective implementation of the agreement.

The UAE emphasises that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms, and standards of international law. The UAE also reaffirms that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

The UAE noted the Director-General's reports on the Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, and we look forward to the continuation of the cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues.

The UAE has noted the first report of the IIT and the statements submitted by some of the States Parties regarding the report, and hopes that States Parties will reach an agreement through discussions during the sessions of this Council.



The United Arab Emirates emphasises the importance of the OPCW's contribution to combating chemical terrorism and commends the efforts of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism. We emphasise the importance of the programmes of assistance and protection against chemical weapons.

We reaffirm the need to strengthen the capabilities of the Technical Secretariat to respond to the requests for assistance under Article X of the Convention, and we support the capacity-building programmes to promote the efforts of combating chemical terrorism.

The UAE attaches great importance to the full, effective implementation of Article XI and emphasises the need to strengthen the cooperation in the economic and technological development field among the States Parties.

The United Arab Emirates welcomes the proposal to upgrade the current OPCW Laboratory to a Centre for Chemistry and Technology, with a view to fostering the OPCW scientific and technological capabilities in responding to the threat of chemical weapons and promoting capacity building for States Parties.

The United Arab Emirates emphasises that universality of the Convention is critical to achieving the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We call upon the remaining States not Party to the Convention to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest.

The United Arab Emirates reiterates its commitment to the OPCW as well as to the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention in the interest of promoting international peace and security.

I conclude requesting that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the external server and the public website of the OPCW

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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