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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARÍA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Mr Director-General, Representatives, and Delegates,

We congratulate Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, who has taken on the Chairmanship of this Executive Council, and we assure him of the support of our delegation for his leadership, in addition to the friendship of our country. We share the sentiment expressed in the well deserved words of recognition from the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries, communicated by the Dominican Republic on its behalf. We would also like to extend our gratitude to Ambassador Andrea Perugini and his distinguished conduct of our work, building the requisite agreements in the previous Chairmanship period.

Chile aligns itself with the statement made by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, with the exception of paragraphs 14 and 32.

The Director-General's report, which we fully welcome, provides us with an opportunity to highlight three issues:

1. With regard to the Syrian dossier, we have taken note of the reports that acknowledge the cooperation and exchange of information between Syria and the Technical Secretariat, and we value the fact that diplomatic and technical channels continue to be useful in this regard. The unresolved issues that remain require the intensification of these efforts in order to clarify and respond in the shortest possible time to the outstanding questions that the DAT has identified. With that in place, it will be possible to complete the set of obligations undertaken upon joining the Convention, in line with which the important stages of the destruction of declared chemical facilities and stockpiles have already been completed, with others yet to be resolved.

It stands to note, on the other hand, that the work of the Investigation and Identification Team and that of its coordinator, Ambassador Santiago Oñate, is in alignment with what was presented in its first report this past April. The conclusions made regarding the use of chemical weapons are serious, substantiated, and they outline facts that deserve the highest level of consideration. The Convention will only be strengthened if we learn from the conclusions of the report, in light of what is set out in the Convention, the decisions of this Executive Council, and the Special Session of the Conference that was held in 2018.



2. In terms of cooperation and the role that the OPCW plays, we wish to underscore the spirit with which it has been possible to address this matter in a time in which there are serious limitations on face-to-face activities and with numerous questions about the immediate future. We welcome the meeting of the National Authorities of GRULAC, which will be held virtually this coming 30 July, as well as the first online regional basic course that the OPCW has organised on responding to chemical attacks and incidents.

We will continue to support this format for participation in order to ensure that the channels that have been established in this important area of the OPCW's work with our countries does not suffer—especially with regard to Article XI of the Convention—and maintaining the work of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division. In the next few months, we hope to set out on a new path related to the regulation of domestic legislation, also with support from the ICA.

Likewise, we welcome the increased contributions from more than 40 States Parties and the European Union to the trust fund for the construction of the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology (“the ChemTech Centre”). We reiterate our appreciation for the objectives of the Centre, which were supported in the excellent presentation by the Deputy Director-General a few months ago, and we are confident that the Centre will provide a space for the priorities that we set and contribute to strengthening national capacities, which ultimately come down to public and environmental health, in addition to contributing to chemical disarmament.

3. The management of these important tasks would not be possible without a secure budgetary framework and the maintenance of contributions from States Parties. This year has been full of uncertainties. This is a particularly sensitive matter for the day-to-day business of international organisations, and we trust that the OPCW will be able to surmount this global crisis with fortified support from the States Parties.

We request that this statement be published on the Organisation's website and considered an official document of this session of the Executive Council.