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ARMENIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TIGRAN BALAYAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Armenia has consistently supported the efforts of the international community to exclude completely the possibility of use of chemical weapons or related hazardous materials, through the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

It is regrettable that once again we face the absence of consensus within the policy-making body of the OPCW.

Armenia strongly believes that the Organisation should remain a technical body fulfilling its mission in strict accordance with the Convention.

Any reports on the cases of use of chemical weapons or related hazardous materials should be a subject of impartial, credible, comprehensive, and transparent investigation within established mechanisms and procedures under the Convention and its Annexes. In this regard, Armenia calls upon all sides to cooperate in good faith.

Armenia, not being a casual observer in Syria, but a stakeholder due to the presence of tens of thousands of our compatriots, since the eruption of the conflict in 2011, has constantly shown maximal restraint on the international scene on Syria-related issues, calling respective states and international organisations to show utmost restraint and balanced attitude in assessing the situation in Syria.

Witnessing the hot debates around the IIT report, statements on its possible implications and consequences, we reiterate our position today calling all States Parties to build their actions based on the Convention and its annexes for the best interest of the Syrian people, who badly need international solidarity.

It is necessary to exercise caution and objectivity in order to avoid mistakes made in the past in connection with hasty and unfounded conclusions, leading to irreparable and destructive consequences.

In closing, Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council and be posted on the website of the OPCW.

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