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ALGERIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LOUNÈS MAGRAMANE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

I am pleased to begin by expressing to Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador, the full satisfaction of the Algerian delegation with his election as Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”) and by assuring him of our constant support in the discharge of his duties. I should also like to give my very sincere thanks to his predecessor, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, for the excellent work he accomplished, with great patience and skill, during his term as Chairperson of the Council.

I would also take this opportunity to pay a warm tribute to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his highly commendable efforts, during these sensitive times we are experiencing, to strengthen the OPCW so that it can carry out its primary mission to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

I cannot miss this opportunity to also express my thanks to the members of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW (“the Secretariat”) for their dedication and ongoing efforts to give full expression to Convention implementation.

Naturally, my delegation aligns itself with the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, delivered by H.E. Mr Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and with that of the African Group, delivered by H.E. Mr Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa, Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In this connection, I should like to add a few thoughts on behalf of my country.

It is true that this Ninety-Fourth regular Session of our Council has been convened under exceptional circumstances, as the international community confronts COVID-19. In this regard, I bow my head in memory of the victims of this pandemic, and support the spirit of solidarity that should guide us all in paying tribute to the medical professionals in our respective countries for their work and sacrifice during these difficult times. We express our gratitude and appreciation to them here.



Indeed, we live in a world in which, more than ever before, we face multiple dangers. I should like to point out that Algeria has worked tirelessly to create an atmosphere of trust within the international community, an atmosphere that remains more than imperative to maintain international peace and security. It is incumbent upon us to strengthen the multilateral framework at our disposal to support cooperation and to mobilise the available means of action to build the international order that we wish to be stable, secure, and supportive.

In this connection, we are convinced that the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) will be able to create this atmosphere in order to make its progress towards realising the objectives of peace and security more tangible.

This dimension, which is in line with our potential and our desire to secure a prosperous future for the coming generations, requires the OPCW to ensure the implementation of concrete guarantees as the legal framework for monitoring and controlling compliance with the obligations already undertaken within the framework of the Convention.

With regard to the Syrian chemical file, my delegation continues to follow closely the developments around this issue, while reiterating its call for a consensual outcome that takes account of the positions of all parties concerned, removed from any doubts and other political biases that might chip away at all of the OPCW's achievements. The call from many countries, including Algeria, to preserve the purely technical nature of the work of our Organisation is more edifying now than ever before.

Besides the unacceptable and reprehensible nature of any use of chemical weapons, by whomever and for whatever reason, the OPCW is at a pivotal moment in its history, which will determine its future relevance within the global peace and security architecture, in keeping with the mandates of each institution.

This is a good opportunity to reiterate the unequivocal position of my country regarding the thorough and unreserved condemnation of any use of chemical weapons, by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. With regard to the outstanding issues, Algeria encourages the stakeholders to foster dialogue to overcome all of the obstacles and to adopt a constructive approach that will allow for inclusive solutions to be found.

Algeria believes that the increasing polarisation of the OPCW's work makes it harder to find solutions that could make the objectives of the Organisation more sustainable.

It is therefore our responsibility to begin to initiate a process of reflection that goes beyond an evaluation of our respective needs and capacities, to look at identifying productive lines of collaboration that can serve as a platform for the development and promotion of multilateral cooperation in several areas, such as chemical terrorism, capacity building, and the use of chemistry for development purposes.

In this connection, my delegation hopes that the Secretariat will realise the ambitious Africa Programme, in particular in its fifth phase, and wholeheartedly supports any activities aimed at reinforcing this Programme and at strengthening the bonds of cooperation and partnership with the African Union, which we would very much like to see.

Based on its own experience in implementing Article VII of the Convention, my country stands ready to support any efforts of the Secretariat or States Parties that could help strengthen the capacities of African States Parties and help in the adoption of the legislation necessary for the implementation of the Convention at the national level.

In this regard, we congratulate the Secretariat, which is continuing its capacity-building efforts for the National Authorities of States Parties, in particular those of the African countries, so that they are able to fulfil their commitments and meet the challenges associated with Convention implementation.

At the same time, Algeria would also like to underscore the importance of a greater focus on the measures of assistance and protection against chemical weapons contemplated in Article X of the Convention, in particular in cases of chemical attacks or chemical accidents.

My delegation welcomes the efforts of the Director-General to achieve balance in recruitment within the Organisation and calls for the introduction of measures to strengthen and support this practice at all levels, while also taking into account a more balanced geographical distribution in terms of recruitment.

Finally, we are convinced that strict compliance with and implementation of the Convention is necessary for any undertaking aimed at maintaining international peace and security, and it is up to the States Parties to define how to rise to these new challenges that humanity must face to ensure the relevance and viability of the Convention.

I would ask that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and that it be published on the website of the Organisation.

Thank you.

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