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ARGENTINA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Perugini,

On behalf of the Argentine delegation, I welcome your leadership at this new session of the Executive Council. Without a doubt, your recognised skills are an invaluable support for this Council.

We welcome the detailed report presented by the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and by the Vice-Chairpersons. We reiterate to the Director-General our signs of sincere appreciation and support for his management, which we extend to the Technical Secretariat and to those who collaborate on the tasks of this Organisation.

We reaffirm the commitment of the Argentine Republic to the policies of disarmament and non-proliferation, as well as the commitment to cooperate in this area, guaranteeing the sovereign right to investigate and develop technologies for peaceful purposes in line with international commitments and national legislation.

We reiterate in a clear, resounding, and unrelenting manner that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances is unacceptable and constitutes a clear violation of the international obligations set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention and international law, and that all responsible for the use thereof must be held accountable.

In this regard, we call upon all States Parties to implement all the pillars of the Convention and to comply strictly with the obligations set out in the Convention and the decisions of the Organisation in such a way as to ensure that the fundamental objectives of both will be achieved. For this to happen, dialogue and a search for a consensus must prevail.

We also urge the continued strengthening of the mechanisms of cooperation with other multilateral bodies. Likewise, we reiterate the importance of advocating for the universality of the Convention.

We note that the discussions that took place at the Fourth Review Conference indicated a broad consensus on the contribution that the OPCW can make in the fight against chemical terrorism. In this regard, the Organisation has a role to play in assisting the States in capacity building and coordinating the efforts of a variety of bodies with this objective in mind.



Effectively, the situation as it relates to physical security was one of the main subjects addressed at the subregional meeting on the implementation of the Convention and cooperation in Latin America, which took place in Buenos Aires last September. Both the States that participated and the OPCW were able to identify strengths on the one hand, and areas that require that joint work be strengthened on the other hand.

We underscore the work of the OPCW with the Syrian Arab Republic, with the information detailed in the Director-General's report in mind, and we urge that the work be continued to clarify all of the outstanding questions within the framework of the Structured Dialogue.

We believe that the facilitation mechanism is a useful tool for improving the assessment of, proposals for, and achieving consensus on courses of action with regard to issues relevant to the Organisation and the States Parties. Within this context, we value the work carried out by the Chairperson of the Executive Council and his proposal to revitalise the facilitation framework, improve its coordination, and address the issues that the States Parties have recognised as needing improvement in an effective and non-discriminatory manner. Furthermore, improved coordination will prevent redundancies. We believe it is necessary to make progress in the discussion of important issues, such as capacity building for the full implementation of the Convention within the framework of Article VII; capacity building against chemical weapons and chemical accidents in line with Article X; cooperation in the field of laboratories and for the economic and technological development of the States Parties under Article XI; and human resources and the tenure policy, taking due account of the need to improve gender parity and ensure adequate geographical representation across all levels of the Organisation. With regard to our region, Argentina hopes that in future, the geographical distribution of the staff members of the Technical Secretariat will improve, and that an increase in the percentage of posts held by people from Latin American and Caribbean countries will be observed.

We confirm Argentina's interest in playing a constructive role and approaching proposals aimed at more effective and efficient functioning of the Convention's implementation mechanisms. An example of such is the work document aimed at optimising the implementation of the methodology used to select chemical industries under Article VI of the Convention; part of our proposal was approved and has meant a technical improvement that has been recognised by the States Parties. In this regard, the Argentine delegation is pleased with the progress that has been achieved to improve the frequency of inspections at the sites of other chemical production facilities.

Argentina has played an active role in this Organisation since its inception and has promoted the implementation of the provisions of all of the Convention's pillars. We are pleased to mention some recent examples that reflect this position and our participation in the activities that are organised within the OPCW framework. The National Authority of Argentina is working intensively in education and outreach about the Convention in industry and academia. It regularly organises, together with the OPCW, the regional assistance and protection course on responding to chemical emergencies, as well as the regional course on security management and chemical protection at laboratories.

As a final observation on the matter, it is worth underscoring that Argentina intends to continue dedicating efforts to the implementation of the provisions of the Convention, specifically concerning the promotion of national capacities via regional courses in a variety of fields for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Argentina wishes to convey that it has decided to co-sponsor the draft decision entitled “Understanding Regarding the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes” (EC-92/DEC/CRP.9/Rev.1). In this regard, Argentina hopes that a consensus is reached on the proposed Understanding. For this reason, we consider it important to address the matter and to facilitate a discussion that will make it possible to receive the comments of the States Parties.

Our delegation offers its constructive support for the work of the Executive Council, and hopes that priority will be given to dialogue and the search for consensus in order to ensure that the OPCW is able to meet its lofty goals.

We request that this declaration be considered an official document of this session and published on the OPCW’s external server and website.

Thank you.

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