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PERU

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARISOL AGÜERO COLUNGA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Agustín Vásquez,

As this my first opportunity to address the Executive Council, I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as Chairperson of this important decision-making body of the OPCW in representation of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean Countries. Likewise, I would reiterate the full support of the delegation of Peru for your management, and our confidence that your leadership will adequately guide the development of our work at this Executive Council.

Likewise, we express our appreciation for the Director-General, the Technical Secretariat, and the Bureau for all of the efforts made in preparation for this session of the Executive Council, bearing in mind all of the health measures within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, we welcome the full report of the Director-General presented at this session, and we reiterate our support for the decisions that allow the Technical Secretariat to continue working towards achieving the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Members States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, with the exception of paragraph 13 thereof, regarding the cooperation of Syria with the OPCW.

Peru expresses its profound concern regarding the alleged use of nerve agents against Russian citizen Alexei Navalny. My country welcomes Germany's request for technical assistance from the OPCW and will closely follow the conclusions of the corresponding report. Just as was stated by the Director-General of the OPCW, according to the Chemical Weapons Convention, any poisoning of a person using a nerve agent is considered the use of chemical weapons, and is deserving of our condemnation and repudiation.

On the other hand, Peru wishes to reiterate its absolute support for the Technical Secretariat in the Syrian Arab republic, and in particular, the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). With regard to the latest DAT report, we observe with great concern that it has not yet been possible to resolve the inconsistencies in the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic, in spite of the multiple initiatives of the Director-General carried out within the framework of the Structured Dialogue. We welcome the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in this regard and urge the Syrian Arab Republic to enter into effective cooperation with the OPCW, which will demonstrate positive results in the short term.



We regret that once again, the Syrian Arab Republic has not demonstrated the cooperation necessary for the work of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) in spite of paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which stipulates the obligation of all States Parties to cooperate with the Organisation in the exercise of all its functions.

With regard to the Organisation's budget, Peru finds it critical that the OPCW is able to rely on the resources necessary to develop its work, which is why we support recommending that the Conference of the States Parties adopt the Draft Budget, which provides for a special fund for tackling the COVID-19 pandemic-related challenges facing the work of the OPCW.

Likewise, we express our support for the facilitators for the issues related to the governance of the Organisation, Ambassador Laura Dupuy of Uruguay, and Ambassador Matthew Neuhaus of Australia. We believe that within the framework of this space, we will be able to discern progress in important areas such as achieving geographically balanced representation within the staff of the Technical Secretariat, flexibility in the human resource policy for highly specialised posts, and internship programme proposals, among others.

We kindly request, Mr Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

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