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**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR HISSA ABDULLA ALOTAIBA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Your Excellency, the Director-General of the OPCW,  
Excellencies, heads of delegation,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you!

On behalf of the delegation of the State of the United Arab Emirates, it gives me pleasure to congratulate you, Excellency Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, on your election as Chairperson of the current session of the Conference, wishing you full success in your mission.

We would like to thank the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, and to express our appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his outstanding efforts over the past period, as well as to the team of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for their ongoing efforts to promote and energise the role of the Organisation in eliminating weapons of mass destruction and implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation of the efforts made by the Committee of the Whole and the OPCW Technical Secretariat staff in preparation for this session despite the outbreak of the epidemic and the ongoing extraordinary circumstances. We wish this and all upcoming sessions a successful outcome.

In addition, the State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its commitment to cooperating with the Organisation and the States Parties, through its membership in the Executive Council, in order to achieve the objectives of the Organisation and ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms, and standards of international law.



The State of the United Arab Emirates is keen on implementing its obligations under the Convention and believes firmly in the objectives of the Convention, through which the entire world affirmed its determination to work for effective progress towards full disarmament and the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction for the safety of humanity as a whole. The destruction of 98% of the declared chemical weapons is an important step towards a world free from chemical weapons.

The State of the United Arab Emirates calls for addressing the issue of use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, through discussions and in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has reviewed the Director-General's reports on the progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and we hope that cooperation will continue between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms its eagerness to implement its obligations under Article VII of the Convention and to cooperate with other States Parties in this regard in order to enhance national capacities.

Also, the State of the United Arab Emirates affirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the Technical Secretariat to respond to requests for assistance under Article X of the Convention, and support capacity-building programmes in States Parties.

The State of the United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention, and stresses the need to strengthen cooperation in economic and technological development among States Parties.

The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses that the universality of the Convention is critical to achieving its objectives, and that the accession of 193 States to the Convention is an important step towards achieving its universality. The OPCW's efforts and continuous endeavour to ensure the universality of the Convention constitute an effective contribution to the promotion of international peace and security. In addition, the State of the United Arab Emirates emphasises the need to continue the efforts being made by the Director-General of the OPCW through his contacts with representatives of States not Party to the Convention in order to raise awareness of the importance of joining the Convention.

The State of the United Arab Emirates supports the decision of the Executive Council of the OPCW on the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors, which represents a threat to the object and purpose of the Convention. We affirm the need to hold accountable any actor which engages or attempts to engage in such activities. The State of the United Arab Emirates also supports the ongoing work of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism.

The State of the United Arab Emirates reiterates its commitment to the OPCW as well as to the fulfilment of its obligations under the Convention in the interest of international peace and security.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the external server and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.