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ANGOLA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARIA ISABEL DE RESENDE ENCOGE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr President,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Excellencies,

It is an honour to present the statement on behalf of the Government of Angola, at the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”), and I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to address this forum.

Angola, would like to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgotia Trejo, of the United Mexican States, as President of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that His Excellency Ambassador José Trejo’s leadership at this Conference will come to a successful conclusion. We also want to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria for the way he chaired the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

We take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, Director-General of the OPCW, for the comprehensive report he has presented to us and to express our appreciation to the staff of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, for their dedication to the implementation of the noble objectives of the Convention.

The Republic of Angola is in agreement with the statements of the African States Group, presented by its coordinator, His Excellency Ambassador Lawrence Lenayapa, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the OPCW, and the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, presented by His Excellency Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OPCW.

The Republic of Angola joins the celebration of the 65th anniversary of the Bandung Conference and the adoption of its Fundamental Principles, which is at the core of the Non-Aligned Movement and China and reflects its commitments and aspirations.



Angola is convinced that there is not much left to achieve the universality of the Convention. The delegation of the Republic of Angola calls on the States not Party to the Convention to acknowledge or adhere to the Convention.

The use of toxic chemicals as weapons, anywhere, by any person, and under any circumstances is strongly condemnable and totally against the provisions of the Convention. In this context, the Republic of Angola condemns their use, and chemical weapons possessors must be held responsible. We condemn chemical terrorism, and call on States that possess chemical weapons to continue their efforts to eliminate them completely.

We call for the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of Article XI, with a view to contributing to the economic and technological development of States Parties. They add considerable importance to all States Parties and international cooperation in the area of chemical activities for the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information on chemical products and equipment for purposes non-prohibited under the Convention.

We recognise that the Workshop of Annual Revision and Assessment of the Agreed Structured Components of the Implementation of Article XI is a useful platform for developing solid measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article. In this perspective, in order to achieve further improvements, we call for an enhancement of this Workshop, in order to ensure that it fulfils this important purpose.

We appreciate the active participation of States Parties during the Annual Revision and Assessment Workshop held on 2 November 2020, and request the Article XI facilitator to report on the ideas that emerged and the activities carried out during the intersessional period to be reflected in the report of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

The Angolan Republic highlights and encourages ongoing actions under the scope of the Africa Programme and is grateful for the completion of the fourth phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa. It also appreciates the efforts made to start the fifth phase, as well as the progress already achieved and the helpful support provided by the Programme donors.

Angola hopes that the eight objectives identified are achieved, as reported in the Director-General's Note C-25/DG.9 EC-95/DG.11 (dated 10 September 2020), and we highlight the importance of ensuring its sustainability with the OPCW regular budget.

We congratulate the work carried out by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and encourage its continuity. We also call on all States Parties to fully comply with their obligations under Article X of the Convention. We emphasise the responsibility of States Parties and the OPCW Technical Secretariat to assist victims of chemical weapons and to coordinate the delivery of necessary equipment and medications in accordance with Article X.

We call for the non-imposition of any restrictions that prevent assistance to the victims of chemical weapons, which is contrary to the idea and spirit of the Convention.

Angola reiterates the need for a wide geographical and gender distribution of specialists with diverse experience in the composition of the OPCW to achieve a greater balance, and urges the hiring of staff in the Technical Secretariat to be fair and transparent at all levels.

The Republic of Angola takes this opportunity to thank the OPCW COVID-19 Task Force, and all Organisation staff for the continued efforts made in the adverse circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure the work of the Organisation is being implemented through innovation and adaptability for the accomplishment of this Conference and to express its solidarity with all States in the world suffering the effects of the pandemic.

We underline the important part that the Scientific Advisory Board plays in this time of great vulnerability of victims of chemical weapons due to COVID-19, where specific and urgent assistance is required from most capable States Parties to help alleviate the adverse impact of COVID-19.

Despite the impediments caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which is afflicting the world, the Republic of Angola has done everything to fully implement the Convention and is committed to continuing to work with the Technical Secretariat to overcome the obstacles that still persist, for the adequacy of its national legislation.

We recognise that the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention contributes to international peace and security, as well as to the economic and technological development of States Parties.

We acknowledge our position to contribute to the achievement of total disarmament, under strict and effective control of the international community, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

We reiterate that the States Parties' decision-making practice by consensus is the correct approach to achieve the objectives and commitments of the Convention. We call on all States Parties not to polarise or politicise the Organisation's work. We also reaffirm the centrality of the policy-making organs in assessing and implementing all matters related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Angola believes that the adoption of the OPCW Programme and Budget, and other issues of importance of this Organisation, through consensus constitutes the fundamental principle for achieving the objectives of the Convention.

In conclusion, we encourage all States Parties to work in a spirit of goodwill towards the successful conclusion of this session through consensus.

Thank you very much Mr President.

Thank you Excellencies and distinguished delegates.

The Republic of Angola hereby requests that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the official OPCW website.