

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL – 97th SESSION

OPCW

STATEMENT by PR PAULO ROBERTO CAMINHA DE CASTILHOS FRANÇA, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL, ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF LATIN AMERICAN E CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES (GRULAC)

Mr. Chairperson, I speak on behalf of GRULAC, in my capacity of coordinator of the regional group.

We thank the Secretariat for the preparation of the document EC-97/DG.9, named "ANNUAL REPORT ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT", and we note with concern that the trend of unequal geographical distribution of the staff has been deepened in the last year. It is worrisome that GRULAC nationals, which amounted to only 6,3% in the last report, have been further reduced to 5,8% in the total composition of the TS's personnel.

We urge the Technical Secretariat to address this issue, by paying due regard to the importance of recruiting the staff on a wide geographical basis, as mandated by art. VIII, 44 of the Convention.

Thank you.