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ANGOLA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ISABEL ENCOGE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr General Manager,
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to present this declaration to the Ninety-Seventh Session of the Executive Council on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Angola.

First of all, we would like to welcome H.E. Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki, of the Kingdom of Morocco as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in the leadership of the work of this session and its successful conclusion. We thank Director-General Fernando Arias and the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council, for their reports and also express our gratitude to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for the dedicated and professional manner in which they carried out the noble tasks of the implementation objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

We take the opportunity to express our firm support for the re-candidacy of H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, for another term of office as Director-General of this Organisation, taking into account the objective and neutral way in which he has conducted the fates of the OPCW and the implementation of the objectives of the Convention.

Angola, joins the statements of the African Countries Group, presented by H.E. Ambassador Lounès Magramane, the Permanent Representative of the Democratic and People’s Republic of Algeria to the OPCW, as the Coordinator of the African Group with the OPCW; and from the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Convention and China, presented by H.E. Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the OPCW.

In these challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Republic of Angola continues to emphasise the importance for the OPCW and all States Parties to continue to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, and to contribute to the economic and technological development of States Parties, especially in the areas of international cooperation and assistance.



Angola attaches great importance to the universality of the Convention and, in this regard, strongly urges States that are not yet Parties to this Convention to ratify it or join, without any delay or preconditions. We are convinced that there is a long way to go before the universality of the Convention. Angola emphasises that the use of toxic chemicals as weapons, anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is strongly questionable and totally contrary to the provisions of the Convention, in this context we condemn their use for non-peaceful purposes. Angola condemns chemical terrorism, wherever it is, in any form, and on the other hand, we call on States that have chemical weapons to continue their efforts to completely eliminate them.

Angola calls for the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI with a view to contributing to the economic and technological development of States Parties.

The Republic of Angola salutes the progress made in the fifth phase of the Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa, despite the constraints that the world is experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We applaud the meeting of the Africa Steering Committee and the meeting of African National Authorities held on 15-17 and 25 June 2021 and hope to make further progress in achieving the eight objectives identified at the current stage of the programme.

We underline the responsibility of States Parties and the OPCW Technical Secretariat to continuously assist victims of chemical weapons and coordinate the delivery of the necessary equipment and medicines to them, in accordance with Article X, without imposing any restrictions, or preventing assistance to victims of chemical weapons that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

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

We reiterate our call for a wide geographical and gender distribution of experts in the composition of Organisation with diverse experience in order to achieve a better balance and we urge the hiring of staff for the Technical Secretariat to be fair and transparent at all levels.

The Republic of Angola takes this opportunity to join the Technical Secretariat's COVID-19 Task Force, and all the Organisation's staff, for the continued effort made in the adverse circumstances imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure the work of the Organisation, putting innovation and adaptability into practice for this Executive Council and expressing their solidarity with all States in the world suffering the effects of the pandemic.

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

Mr Chairperson, in conclusion, we encourage all States Parties to work with a spirit of goodwill for the successful conclusion of this session by consensus.

The Republic of Angola requests that this statement be considered as an official document and published on the official website of the OPCW.

Thank you.