



ALGERIA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE GROUP OF AFRICAN STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LOUNÈS MAGRAMANE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11(D)**

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), I would like to commend you and your Bureau for the skilful manner in which you steer the deliberations of this session of the Council.

The African Group appreciates Director-General Fernando Arias and the Staff of the Technical Secretariat, for their continuing efforts towards promoting international cooperation and assistance in many areas, despite the challenges of the Covid- 19 pandemic.

The Group has taken note of the Note by the Director-General (EC-97/DG.12, dated 22 June 2021), on the transfer of funds between programmes and within subprogrammes during 2020. The Group expresses deep concern that considerable amounts have been transferred out of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) programme. Since 2015, more than EUR 2 million have been transferred from the ICA programmes with an increasing trend. In the two last considered years, the amounts transferred have more than doubled, rising from EUR 314,950 in 2019, to EUR 694,000 in 2020. This trend is of great concern to the Group.

Emphasising the fact that ICA constitutes one of the core pillars of the Convention, the African Group requests the Technical Secretariat to redouble efforts towards ensuring adequate utilisation of budgeted funds for ICA programmes. Furthermore, we call on States Parties to consider the establishment of a special fund within the regular budget for ICA activities, to preserve funds earmarked for ICA activities beyond the financial year. We request the Secretariat to make provision in this regard in the 2022/23 biennial programme and budget proposal.

Thank you for your kind attention.

The African Group would like to request that this statement be published as an official document of this session.

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