Mr Chairperson,

Destruction of chemical weapons is the main pillar of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is unfortunate that the United States of America, as the only possessor of the chemical weapons stockpiles, not only failed to meet the final extended deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons but also sought to postpone the fulfilment of its obligations until 2023. We should not lose sight of the fact that the long-desired goal of the international community for a world free of chemical weapons will not be realised before the complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. My delegation urges the sole possessor State Party to utilise its entire capacity, by using whatever technologies and methods possible, to accelerate the completion of the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest time and prior to the scheduled timeline.

I request that this statement be considered as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the public website and extranet server of the OPCW.

Thank You.