



OPCW

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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-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(H)**

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the Group of African States Parties to the Chemical Weapons 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 Executive Council.

The African Group appreciates the Director-General of the Technical Secretariat (“Secretariat”), H.E. Fernando Arias, and the staff of the Secretariat for their continuing efforts to promote international cooperation and assistance in many areas, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Group commends the progress made during this session towards addressing the transfer of funds out of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) programmes though the inclusion of a paragraph on this issue in the decision on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022 – 2023.

We note with satisfaction that the decision highlights the importance of ICA as a core operational programme of the OPCW, and note that in past years there have been several transfers of not fully utilised funds out of the ICA, in accordance with the Financial Rules and Regulations.

As mentioned in the decision, we reiterate our call upon the Secretariat and States Parties to work collectively to ensure the full and effective implementation of ICA programmes in order to avoid or to reduce the need for transfers between major programmes, and to consider retaining unspent ICA funds in a special fund.

We would also like to express our thanks to all the delegations for their constructive engagement and their support for the African Group’s proposal.



Our thanks go also to the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for their availability, full engagement, and professional support provided to all the delegations during the consultations on this issue, despite the short time.

We remain ready to engage in any further consultations on how to address this matter and implement the relevant recommendation.

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

Thank you for your kind attention.

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