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SENEGAL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOMAR GUEYE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL TO THE
OPCW AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished colleagues,

Senegal aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the countries of the Non-Aligned Movement and China and the Africa Group. Allow me to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr Chairperson, I should first like to warmly congratulate you for your leadership and effectiveness in conducting the work of the Executive Council (“the Council”). I would like to assure you of the full cooperation of the delegation of Senegal in this regard.

I should also like to express my delegation’s renewed support and trust to the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr Fernando Arias, whom we thank for his comprehensive and informative report on the activities of the Organisation.

I also wish to commend the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) for its unfailing availability and greatly appreciated effectiveness in supporting the States Parties.

Senegal wishes to express once again its unequivocal condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and the use of toxic chemicals as weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. There can be no justification for the use of such weapons, and those who use them must be held accountable.

My country encourages the efforts aimed at establishing greater geographical representation and gender balance among the staff of the Secretariat, with a view to providing candidates from developing regions with access to management posts.

Senegal is pleased with the progress made in the implementation of the four previous phases of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa (“the Africa Programme”). The numerous gains that have been made should be consolidated during the fifth phase of this Programme, which was launched in January 2020.

I wish to underscore the need to sustain this important Africa Programme by emphasising, among other things, capacity building in laboratories, the establishment of centres of excellence, and the promotion of the use of peaceful chemistry exclusively for purposes of economic and technological development.



Likewise, while we welcome the voluntary contributions to this Programme, Senegal is of the view that it would be wise to consider funding the Programme from the regular budget of the OPCW.

Senegal would like to invite the States Parties to work in a spirit of consensus building, transparent commitment, and close cooperation, in order to preserve the technical nature of the OPCW to help to strengthen international peace and security.

It is in this spirit that we must examine the important issues, such as the proposal to amend the Rules of Procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters, the initiative of Germany to allow the Council to hold sessions and meetings in emergency circumstances, as well as the Organisation's tenure policy.

Before concluding, I would like to express Senegal's support for the Draft Programme and Budget for 2022–2023, to allow our Organisation to continue to properly carry out the missions entrusted to it.

I would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Council and that it be published on the servers of the OPCW.

Thank you for your attention.

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