Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union lends its full support to the appointment of H.E. Mr Fernando Arias for a second term in office as Director-General of the OPCW. Taking into account the many challenges facing the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as the need for continuity of effort in its implementation, the European Union considers that H.E. Mr Arias is the most qualified person to lead the Organisation.

I would kindly ask to consider this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.