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PERU

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARISOL AGÜERO COLUNGA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF PERU TO THE OPCW
AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah,

I would like to begin my statement by welcoming your appointment as Chairperson of the Executive Council and expressing our confidence in your leadership in conducting this session. At the same time, I would like to congratulate and thank your predecessor, Ambassador Eniola Olaitan Ajayi of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, for the work she carried out as the previous Chairperson of the Executive Council.

In an international context like today's, it is even more important to strengthen diplomacy and multilateralism as tools for maintaining international peace and security. In this regard, I would like to express Peru's strong commitment to achieving the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW, with the aim of contributing to international security and stability, and to disarmament in general.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Non-Aligned Movement and China, with the exception of paragraph 15, which refers to Syria's cooperation with the OPCW.

Peru would like to reiterate its full support for the work of the Technical Secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic, especially the Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). We note with concern that it has still not been possible to resolve the inconsistencies in the initial declaration of the Syrian Arab Republic, and we urge this country to demonstrate effective cooperation with the OPCW and to provide the cooperation necessary for the work of the IIT in line with paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which underscores the obligation of all States Parties to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat as it carries out its functions.

We welcome the commencement of the activities of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and we express Peru's full willingness to work constructively at these discussions.

We believe that this is a valuable opportunity for the States Parties to review the progress made in the implementation of the Convention and to develop recommendations to improve the work of the Organisation over the next few years.



In this regard, we would like to once again note the importance that Peru assigns to fostering international cooperation and assistance, the universality of the Convention, and appropriate geographic representation within the Organisation. We express Peru's resolve to continue promoting dialogue in order to achieve balanced geographic representation in line with the provisions of Article VIII of the Convention.

Peru is pleased to be the host country for the next chemical protection and security programme for GRULAC Member States, scheduled for 12–14 July. This event will serve as an opportune forum for discussing the international cooperation activities developed within the framework of the Convention and the strategies to manage the threats to security and protection at chemical facilities, and to exchange experiences and best practices among participants in the field of chemical security and protection.

We firmly believe that these types of activities contribute to strengthening regional cooperation with the OPCW.

This past April, we commemorated 25 years since the entry-into-force of the Convention, one of the most successful disarmament treaties; since that moment, 99% of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed to date.

Milestones of this nature should bring us to reaffirm our shared responsibility and determination to redouble efforts against new threats to international security relating to chemical weapons.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you.

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