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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-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

Like all of the speakers before me, I should like to congratulate on your election as Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”). Considering your extensive experience, I am convinced that you will lead our work to a successful conclusion. In this respect, I wish to assure you of the full cooperation of the Senegalese delegation.

I should also like to thank the Director-General, Mr Fernando Arias, for his important opening statement, which highlighted the major challenges that we will still need to face in the area of disarmament. There are obstacles to the full implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (“the Convention”). We can overcome them only through our unity, commitment, hard work, rigour, and common action.

I also wish to praise the unfailing availability of the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”), and its highly appreciated effectiveness in supporting the States Parties, even during these difficult times brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In our common struggle to achieve peace and security in the world, the complete destruction of chemical weapons constitutes a crucial milestone. This is what explains our accession to the Convention and our commitment to working to achieve its objectives. In this regard, my delegation aligns itself with the statement by His Excellency the Ambassador of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, as well as with that by His Excellency the Ambassador of South Africa on behalf of the Africa Group.

Senegal signed the Convention in Paris on 13 January 1993 and ratified it on 25 March 1998.

With the signing of decree No. 2014-1320 of 17 October 2014 on enforcement of the provisions of Law No. 2006-06 of 16 October 2006, Senegal fulfilled its obligations under Article VII of the Convention, in regard to the harmonisation of its national legislation with the relevant provisions of this important international instrument.



Furthermore, a National Authority was established in accordance with Decree No. 2002-839/PR of 27 August 2002 regarding the establishment of the National Commission for Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical Weapons.

Senegal wishes to express here once again its unequivocal condemnation of the use of chemical weapons and 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 for their criminal acts.

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 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 Programme by emphasising, among other things, capacity building in laboratories, the establishment of centres of excellence, and the promotion of the peaceful use of chemistry for the sole 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.

I would ask that the Secretariat publish this statement as an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Council. Thank you for your kind attention.

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