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ETHIOPIA

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INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF
ETHIOPIA AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me, at the outset, to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation extends its appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson H.E. Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Norway, for his dedication during the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Ethiopia aligns itself with the statements of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, and the Africa Group. We also take note of the comprehensive report on the activities of the Organisation by Director-General Fernando Arias.

Mr Chairperson, Ethiopia has always been promoting the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) including the economic and technological development of the State Parties, especially in the fields of international cooperation and assistance, for the realisation of its very objective and purpose.

As a State which experienced the horrifying attack by chemical weapons in the 1930s, my country strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals, as weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstances constitute a serious violation of international law particularly the provisions of the Convention and a major threat to international peace and security. Those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

Ethiopia appreciates the efforts of the OPCW to strengthen cooperation with African States Parties through the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (Africa Programme). My delegation welcomes the progress achieved and the projects put in place for African countries throughout all five phases of the Africa Programme and hoped this effort will be continued during the sixth phase that will commence in January 2023.



In this regard, Ethiopia would like to stress that capacity building and sustainable finance are key in terms of advancing Convention implementation; promoting chemical safety and security; and promoting knowledge in peaceful chemistry and applications in support of sustainable development, which are priority areas identified in the fifth phase.

As the pioneer State Party to the Convention, Ethiopia has adopted comprehensive national implementation legislation in 2003. It has implemented major provisions of the Convention and has been submitting continued annual national declarations to the OPCW.

Ethiopia has been also fulfilling its duties by paying its annual contributions and working closely with the OPCW and other States Parties to encourage regional efforts related to the Convention.

Allow me, at this juncture, to acknowledge the support and contribution from all stakeholders in our implementation activities.

We believe that a balanced approach between the verification requirement and the capacity-building reinforcement, including technology transfer and technical assistance, is essential to the successful implementation of the Convention.

In this regard, I call on the continued support of the Organisation and other stakeholders for my country to meet its national obligations in an effective manner.

Finally, Mr Chairperson, I would like to conclude my statement by reiterating Ethiopia's strong commitment to fully implement the Convention.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the external server and the public website.

I thank you.