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BOLIVIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROBERTO CALZADILLA SARMIENTO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF
BOLIVIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Members of the Technical Secretariat,
Distinguished representatives and delegates,

First of all, the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia wishes to express its most sincere gratitude for and highlight the excellent work and good offices of the Ambassador of Norway, Bård Ivar Svendsen, in his management of the work of the Twenty-Sixth Conference of the States Parties.

Next, I extend our greetings to the Ambassador of South Africa, Vusimuzi Mandonsela, voice my delegation's confidence in him, and wish him every success in conducting the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Likewise, I welcome and thank the Director-General of the OPCW, Fernando Arias, and the Technical Secretariat as a whole for their work in preparation for this session of the Conference of the States Parties in light of the great challenge posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the current tension, conflict, and inflationary process that has affected so much and so many at the global level—especially those who are most vulnerable.

Bearing in mind the nature of the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention, its noble purposes and essential mandates, we welcome the great success achieved to date in the destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles and production facilities, as well as the forthcoming conclusion of such an important goal. However, attention should be drawn to the work that remains to be done to achieve the effective universalisation of the Convention and its full implementation, with the understanding that this calls for the efforts of both the OPCW and the States Parties, especially in terms of providing support for those who are the most vulnerable and are in less favourable conditions to tackle technical, economic, and other types of challenges. In this regard, the budgetary issue will have to play a central role, but this must be done from a realistic perspective that takes into account the diverse challenges of the multifaceted crisis our countries are facing today.

The delegation of Bolivia aligns itself with the statement delivered at this session by the head of delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement of States Parties to the Convention, which has placed a particular emphasis on the full implementation



of Article XI and greater commitment to Article XI, as well as the contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance for the victims of chemical weapons.

Bolivia recognises the importance of adequate financial support for the OPCW Programme and Budget as an indispensable element for fully achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. Regarding this issue, this delegation supports the non-transfer of budget surpluses among programmes and sub-programmes—particularly when it concerns the need to maintain the current resources of the cooperation programmes, but also with regard to the need to establish an appropriate fund to cover any and all future needs. However, in these times of uncertainty and adversity, Bolivia must adopt a policy of austerity in order to ensure the effective availability of its own resources to confront the various challenges it faces, as is the case for many other States Parties.

It is crucial to take into account the distinct capacities and differentiated availability of resources of each State Party and the different regional groups when considering both voluntary contributions to the different programmes as well as any appeal to States Parties that are in a position to provide greater economic, technical, or other type of support that may be relevant to the objectives and mandates of the OPCW to those that are in need of more support.

Bolivia is a pacifist State that promotes the culture of and right to peaceful coexistence of and among the peoples of the world, whilst also considering the need for a sincere commitment to the environment and the health of all. By virtue of our own constitutional mandate, we call upon the international community to advocate for greater dialogue in order to resolve conflicts, make the necessary efforts, and take any steps needed to avoid the imposition of unilateral measures that may negatively affect or impede outright the effective implementation of the Convention by one State Party against another, and in general to achieve greater levels of mutual support and solidarity.

In this regard, Bolivia wishes to reiterate its commitment to the work of the OPCW, with the principles and mandates of the Convention, and consequently expresses its support for all the tasks necessary for the Organisation to achieve its goals and for the Convention to be fully universalised and duly implemented, while also bearing in mind that one pending task of great importance is the achievement of more balanced geographical representation within the OPCW.

Finally, a few months ahead of the Fifth Review Conference, we call on the 193 signatories of the Convention to take all the necessary steps to face the difficult and complicated current situation, to the extent of their possibilities and capabilities, to encourage the clearest and most transparent dialogue possible between any parties in conflict and to achieve a multilateral consensus that will outline new horizons for the future of importance to both the OPCW and the Convention.

The Permanent Representation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia requests that this statement be considered an official document of this session, and that it be published on the official OPCW website and the Catalyst platform.