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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ANTONIO ZABALGOITIA TREJO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED MEXICAN STATES TO THE
OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson, distinguished representatives, ladies and gentlemen, and delegates:

I would like to begin my speech by expressing my delegation's confidence in the Ambassador of South Africa, Vusimuzi Madonsela, and wish him every success in conducting the work of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the information contained in his opening statement, which reflects the hard work that the Technical Secretariat has carried out under his leadership.

Although the total destruction of declared stockpiles will mark an important milestone on the road to achieving the universalisation of the Convention, convincing the countries that have not yet acceded to it continues to be one of the priority objectives that we must not lose sight of. For this reason, Mexico once again makes a mindful appeal to the four States that are not yet party to the Convention to undertake with us the objective of ridding the world of this kind of weapon of mass destruction.

Likewise, it is equally important that the countries that have not yet done so adopt national legislation as soon as possible towards achieving full implementation of the Convention.

Mexico strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. The use of chemical weapons constitutes a serious violation of international law, international humanitarian law, and human rights.

With the aim of promoting the implementation of the Convention, Mexico believes that the Organisation should seriously consider the recommendations of the Scientific Advisory Board.

It is essential that the work of the Organisation be guided by an eminently technical approach, and not merely by political considerations. In this regard, we believe that the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology undoubtedly has enormous potential that we must take advantage of for the benefit of the Convention.

Likewise, it is essential to further strengthen ties with other international organisations specialising in disarmament and arms control issues, as well as with industry, academia, and civil society.



Looking forward, we must take into account issues that may pose a significant challenge in the implementation of the Convention, such as the risk of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors. Cooperation with other specialised agencies and among Member States is essential. Mexico supports the idea of carrying out practical training exercises in preparation for any such eventuality.

Mexico has noted that the only possessor State that has yet to conclude the destruction process of its declared chemical weapons is advancing steadily in its programme and that the authorities of said State have confirmed that this process will be concluded without delay by the agreed deadline. Likewise, Mexico recognises Japan's efforts to continue locating and destroying abandoned weapons in China.

Mexico also supports efforts to seriously consider the issue of chemical weapons dumped into the sea, which represent a latent risk, not only at a regional level, but with international implications in different spheres.

Mexico reiterates its concern over the lack of progress in resolving the outstanding issues, inconsistencies, and questions regarding Syria's initial declaration, and urges that country to fully cooperate with the OPCW Technical Secretariat, as well as with the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), and with the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), to clarify and comply with their obligations under the Convention, as well as with the corresponding resolutions of the Security Council.

Mexico is pleased with the success of the Africa programme and wishes that efforts of this type could also be replicated with equal force in other regions.

We applaud the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to improve the governance of the Organisation. Without a doubt, it is desirable to have measures that allow us to retain the talent and experience of those who represent the backbone of the Organisation. However, we also believe that the Organisation should redouble its efforts to include on its agenda concrete proposals that make it possible to bring us up to speed on gender issues, and to achieve improved geographical representation and distribution across the OPCW's administrative structure.

Mexico recognises that the objectives and purposes of the Convention will only be viable if the OPCW has adequate financial support for its Programme and Budget. That is why we support the non-transfer of surplus resources from the international cooperation chapter to other administrative chapters and the establishment of a fund to cover future needs.

Finally, a few months before the Fifth Review Conference, we call on the States Parties to the Convention to intensify diplomatic and good faith dialogue, so that we can adopt decisions that reflect the general agreement and concerns of all parties, through negotiations and consultations.

Reaching a consensus must be considered a legitimate aspiration for the efficiency of multilateralism, and not as a rule that discourages decision making, or a kind of veto. We believe that this is the spirit that, for years, reflected the willingness of the 193 States Parties to cooperate in pursuit of the shared objective of achieving the complete and definitive elimination of chemical weapons.

I request that this statement be considered a public and official document of this session and published on the Catalyst platform and the official OPCW website.

Thank you very much.

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