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**CHILE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAIME MOSCOSO  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE TO THE OPCW  
AT THE 102ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Representatives and delegates,

First, we thank the Chairperson of the Executive Council, H.E. Ambassador Ziad M.D. Al Atiyah, for his leadership in conducting the sessions of the Council. Chile reiterates its commitment to his management and the support of our delegation.

We express our gratitude to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the achievements noted in his report on the activities being carried out by the Organisation. We express the commitment of our country to his management, with the end goal of maintaining the continuity of the work that has been under way towards achieving the planned objectives of his mandate and finalising the projects that are still in progress.

Chile strongly condemns the unacceptable and unjustified war of aggression that the Russian Federation continues to carry out against Ukraine. More than a year has passed since the start of the conflict, and Chile reiterates its urgent call to the Russian Federation to withdraw its troops, respect the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine, prevent the loss of more innocent lives, and comply with the objectives and principles of the United Nations Charter.

Likewise, Chile expresses its profound concern about the constant, unfounded accusations of the Russian Federation regarding the possible use of chemical weapons by the Ukrainian armed forces or those supporting Ukraine. It is critical that any accusation concerning the potential use of chemical weapons is supported with solid evidence and confirmed by the technical bodies of the OPCW.

With regard to the chemical dossier of the Syrian Arab Republic, we deeply regret the facts that were described in detail in the recent third report of the IIT, which acknowledges that there is reason to believe that the Syrian Air Force participated in the incidents in Douma in April 2018. We condemn in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons against the civil population of Syria, as it constitutes a flagrant violation of international law. At the same time, we reaffirm our commitment to hold responsible the perpetrators of attacks involving chemical weapons in Douma.

We are concerned that since the Conference decided to suspend some of the rights and privileges of this country in line with the Convention, difficulties have arisen for the



deployment of OPCW officials to Damascus, which has prevented the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW from maintaining a continuous presence in the city.

We would recall the obligations of every State Party to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in line with paragraph 7, Article VII of the Convention. For this reason, we urge the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate fully with the Technical Secretariat by providing the relevant background information in order to update its initial declaration and correct the gaps and inconsistencies, including the 20 outstanding issues, and by promptly granting visas to all OPCW personnel to allow this process to continue.

Finally, we reiterate the urgency of focusing on the meeting between the Director-General of the OPCW and the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Syrian Arab Republic in the short term. We are convinced that this high-level meeting will help lead a way out of the stagnation of the recent period and, above all, make progress on important, substantive issues.

We value the progress made with the new OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology and its upcoming inauguration in May this year. We believe that it will provide an opportunity for the OPCW and the States Parties to cooperate and receive assistance with technology and innovation, research and development, capacities, and tools for preventing and responding to new chemical threats. In this regard, we believe it is fundamental to strengthen the role of the Scientific Advisory Board, specifically in terms of the work being carried out at the Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

Geographical representation across the personnel of the OPCW is a priority for Chile. In this regard, we reiterate the need to ensure that geographic representation is as balanced as possible within the OPCW, and rectify the imbalance produced after years of inaction. For this reason, we call upon the Director-General to search for ways, incentives, and specific measures to rectify the current imbalance within the composition of the Technical Secretariat, with a view to ensuring that conditions are in place so that professionals from all countries, especially those that are underrepresented, have the opportunity to become part of the Organisation.

We reaffirm our commitment to continue promoting an inclusive approach to gender, with a view towards the cross-sectional and long-term incorporation of gender perspective in the OPCW as a way of supporting efforts to ensure that this approach is implemented in each aspect of the Convention and, at the same time, contributes to rectifying the underrepresentation of women at the meetings and in the programmes of the OPCW.

We value the work of Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia in his capacity as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. We reiterate our support for his management over the next months and emphasise the importance of working together to achieve a result that will ensure a consensus at the Fifth Review Conference.

As members of the Executive Council of this body, we reiterate our commitment to the prohibition of the use of chemical weapons and to continued efforts through dialogue and cooperation in line with the objectives set out in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We kindly request that this statement be considered an official document and published on the OPCW website.