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**REPORT BY THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSÉ ANTONIO ZABALGOITIA TREJO OF MEXICO
AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

It is an honour for me to present my oral report as the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole (hereinafter “the Committee”) to the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Fifth Review Conference”).

The Committee considered items referred to it by the Fifth Review Conference, specifically the Draft Provisional Text submitted by the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference. In order to streamline the process of consideration, at the first sitting of the Committee of the Whole, an informal group for the preparation of the report was created. The informal group consisted of several States Parties from all five regional groups¹ and the Friends of the Chairperson of the Review Conference. All delegations were allowed to attend its sittings, and many did so.

The informal group has taken the developments of the informal meetings of the Friends of the Chairperson as the starting point of its discussions. Progress has been achieved on a number of paragraphs on engagement of external stakeholders, geographical diversity and the tenure policy, and industry verification and contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts. I would like to express my appreciation for the tireless efforts of all delegations, and I want to recognise the Friends of the Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference, H.E. Ambassador Frances-Galatia Lanitou Williams of Cyprus, H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador, H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, and H.E. Ambassador Susannah Gordon of New Zealand, for delivering agreed language on almost all the paragraphs discussed in the aforementioned clusters.

I have done my utmost to fulfil the mandate entrusted to the Committee within the limited time available. The informal group met twice and made further progress on some of the paragraphs that remained open after consideration by the Friends of the Chairperson. The group worked in

¹ African Group: Botswana, Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, and South Africa; Asian Group: China, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, the Republic of Korea, and Qatar; Eastern European Group: the Czech Republic, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Poland, and the Russian Federation; Group of Latin American and Caribbean States: Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Cuba, and Ecuador; and Western European and Other States Group: Australia, France, Germany, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.



a spirit of compromise, mutual respect, and understanding, for which I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all delegations.

Unfortunately, due to the limited time available and in the context of current global affairs, the informal group was unable to resolve all problems, and therefore I have to report that there are still outstanding issues, on which fundamental divergence of views continues to exist.

I have reported to the Chairperson of the Fifth Review Conference the outcome of the mandate assigned to the Committee regarding the preparation of the final report. I have attached to my communication to the Chairperson the final document of the Fifth Review Conference, reflecting its status at the end of the process. As you know, it remained an open document, and thus consensus was not reached.

In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all States Parties that engaged constructively in the work of the Committee, to its informal group and the Friends of the Chairperson for their tireless efforts to find a common ground on multiple issues, and to the Technical Secretariat for its assistance.

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