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RWANDA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR OLIVIER J.P. NDUHUNGIREHE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA TO THE
OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Dear colleagues,

Allow me to first of all to congratulate you, H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van Kwast, for assuming your position as Chairperson of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fifth Review Conference), and for the excellent manner you are conducting our proceedings. I also express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia for the tremendous work he has done as Chairperson of the Open-ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference.

The delegation of Rwanda associates itself with statements delivered by H.E. Ambassador Francis Kotia of Ghana and H.E. Ambassador Rahman Mustafayev of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Africa Group and the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, respectively. Please allow me to make few remarks in my national capacity.

Rwanda takes note of the statement of Director-General Fernando Arias and the comprehensive reports of the Technical Secretariat. We commend the showcased commitment to further improve and strengthen the work of the OPCW, and we hope that we will be able to come out of this conference with a clear roadmap on how to address some of the outstanding issues the Organisation has been facing.

In this regard, we note the importance of the international cooperation and assistance and reiterate our support to all efforts aimed at addressing the issue of transfer of funds from the International Cooperation and Assistance Division (ICA) programmes, including the retention of the unspent budget in a special ICA fund. We also recognise and commend the achievements made in the implementation of the Africa Programme and look forward to its continuation under its sixth phase, stressing on the need to make this programme financially sustainable under the regular budget.



In the same vein, Rwanda welcomes the recently inaugurated ChemTech Centre and we believe that it will be instrumental in increasing the capacity of States Parties in the implementation of the Convention through various research, training, knowledge sharing and capacity building programmes.

The delegation of Rwanda also underscores the importance of equitable geographical representation and gender equality in the Technical Secretariat and calls upon the Technical Secretariat to continue engaging with State Parties to identify concrete measures to broaden and diversify the pool of professionals, especially from under-represented regions.

As I conclude, Mr Chairperson, allow me to reaffirm Rwanda's commitment to the Convention and to the spirit of consensus and goodwill in the conduct and conclusion of this Fifth Review Conference.

I would like to request that this statement be published on the public website of the OPCW and the catalyst as an official document of this session.

Thank you.

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