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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JAMAL JAMA AL-MUSHARAKH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO THE
OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Your Excellency, the Director-General of the OPCW,
Your Excellency, the Chairperson of the Conference,
Excellencies, Heads of attending delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings.

On behalf of the delegation of the United Arab Emirates, I am pleased to congratulate you, Excellency Mr Henk Cor van der Kwast, the Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OPCW, on your election as Chairperson of the OPCW's Fifth Review Conference. I would like to affirm my country's confidence in your expertise to discharge, in the best manner possible, the tasks assigned to you. We also congratulate the Vice-Chairpersons, wishing them every success.

I extend my thanks and appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, and to the team of the OPCW Technical Secretariat for their continuous efforts to strengthen the role of the OPCW, carry out its tasks and achieve the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation and thanks to the Chairperson and members of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, the team of the Technical Secretariat, and the subsidiary organs of the OPCW for their efforts to prepare for this Conference, wishing it success in addressing its agenda.

This Conference is an opportunity and an important forum for reviewing the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, discussing the challenges ahead towards fostering international cooperation and assistance, enacting effective national legislations, and for the submission of accurate and complete declarations by States Parties, as well as for affirming adherence to the provisions of the Convention, which would contribute to the effective implementation of the Convention, thus reinforcing international peace and security.



My delegation has taken note of the reports by the Director-General of the OPCW on the destruction of chemical weapons. The United Arab Emirates affirms that the use of toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances is contrary to the provisions of the Convention and international law. The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses also that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons is the fundamental pillar of the Convention. The destruction of 99% of declared chemical weapons is a major step towards achieving a world free of chemical weapons. It must be preserved and built upon in order to make effective progress towards complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, with a view to enhancing international peace and security. We also emphasise the importance of adhering to the principles on which the OPCW was founded and to its technical nature, including the spirit of consensus, non-politicisation, and transparency.

The United Arab Emirates stressed, through its non-permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council, with regard to the relevant items, on the importance of focusing on the threat posed by chemical terrorism on the territories of the Syrian Arab Republic, particularly the possession and use of these weapons by terrorist groups, and the need to ensure that those weapons do not fall into the hands of such terrorist groups, including the Da'esh terrorist group.

In this regard, the State of the United Arab Emirates asserts that the development, transfer, and use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances is completely prohibited under international law.

The State of the United Arab Emirates affirms that the verification regime is necessary for the successful implementation of the Convention. It is important to recognise, in light of the rapid advancements in the fields of science and technology, that the verification regime may require some adaptation to keep up with these advancements. Keeping abreast of developments in science and technology, particularly in terms of the transfer of intangible technologies and emerging technologies, ensures effective implementation of the Convention and enables the OPCW to face future challenges and enhance chemical safety and security. Therefore, the Technical Secretariat must have the necessary capabilities to discharge its verification tasks, in order for the OPCW to continue achieving its goals and prevent the re-emergence and use of chemical weapons.

My delegation took note of the report by the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB), and we share the SAB's opinion that information on newly scheduled chemicals is scarce. We emphasise the need for exchanging information on this matter between the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat. We also endorse the SAB's view that technology sciences and chemical industry practices have undergone fundamental change. We underscore the need to monitor this change, given its impact on the verification regime. In our view, there is a need for cooperation between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to implement the recommendations of the SAB.

The State of the United Arab Emirates stresses the importance of the OPCW's contribution to combating terrorism and commends the efforts of the Working Group on Terrorism. We also note the danger posed by non-State actors' acquisition, production, and use of chemical weapons. It is necessary to ensure full and effective control over borders, enhance control measures on exports, and exchange relevant information to prevent the trafficking of prohibited chemicals in order to strengthen global counter-terrorism efforts. We further emphasise the

need for all States Parties to adopt and implement national legislations to prevent non-State actors from acquiring and using toxic chemicals, share best practices in chemical safety and security, as well as build capacities in the areas of assistance and protection against the use of chemical weapons.

The United Arab Emirates attaches great importance to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention and stresses the need to strengthen international cooperation among States Parties in the areas of economic and technological development, chemical activities for non-prohibited purposes, and the peaceful uses of chemical technology, including international exchange of scientific and technical information, chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

The United Arab Emirates believes that international assistance and cooperation are fundamental pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention and encourages the OPCW Technical Secretariat to develop, implement and enhance programmes of international cooperation.

The United Arab Emirates underscores the need to strengthen the Technical Secretariat's capabilities to meet assistance requests under Article X of the Convention and support capacity-building programmes in States Parties.

The State of the United Arab Emirates is keen on implementing its obligations under Article VII of the Convention. It affirms its keenness to cooperate with other States Parties in this regard, in order to implement the Convention at the national level and strengthen national capabilities.

The State of the United Arab Emirates welcomes the inauguration of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre) and believes that the Centre will contribute to enhancing activities related to research, analysis, training, information-sharing and capacity-building for States Parties from different regional groups, by increasing international cooperation and assistance programmes, strengthening scientific and academic partnerships on chemical activities for peaceful uses, and deepening the technological, technical and scientific knowledge of States Parties in the chemical field. The ChemTech Centre also contributes to enhancing the capabilities of the Organisation towards developing the chemical forensic methodology, promoting cooperation among laboratories, and supporting inspector training. The State of the United Arab Emirates was one of the States that co-financed the establishment of the ChemTech Centre.

The State of the United Arab Emirates expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the OPCW Technical Secretariat to reinforce the relationship and cooperation with the International Council of Chemical Associations, international organisations, and the relevant scientific and academic communities with a view to implementing the Convention and achieving its objectives. We take this opportunity to commend the efforts of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach.

The State of the United Arab Emirates highlights the importance of taking into account geographical balance in the recruitment policy of the Organisation, which is in line with the international character of the OPCW. It calls for the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to pursue its efforts, in cooperation with States Parties, to promote geographical diversity within the Organisation. The State of the United Arab Emirates welcomes the proposal of creating an

open-ended working group of all interested States Parties to work in close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to identify and make recommendations in this regard.

The State of the United Arab Emirates has adopted national legislations for the implementation of the Convention. It established the Emirati National Authority (The Executive Office for Control and Non-Proliferation), mandated to implement the national legislation in coordination with all stakeholders, regarding internal control on the transfer of chemicals and the submission of annual declarations in line with the Convention. The United Arab Emirates has worked to enhance constructive cooperation with the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the States Parties in order to achieve the objectives of the Convention. Following previous sessions, the United Arab Emirates hosted in Dubai, from 7 to 9 February 2023, an advanced workshop on enforcing controls over the transfer of chemicals, and chemical safety and security management for Asian OPCW States Parties.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the external server and public website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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