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سفارة الجزائر بالهاي

Algeria

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak
Permanent Representative of Algeria to the OPCW at 109th session of
OPCW Executive Council under item 5, General debate
8 July 2025**

**Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,**

First of all, I would like to reiterate my congratulation to H.E. Ambassador Thomas Schieb, Permanent Representative of Germany to the OPCW for chairing our EC sessions. I am confident he will guide our deliberations toward successful outcomes and he can count on the full support of my delegation.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his reports and his comprehensive statement. Through him, I commend the Deputy Director General, Odette Melono and the staff of the Technical Secretariat for their continued efforts and dedication in fulfilling the Organization's mandate.

The Algerian delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Mirjam Blaak Sow, Permanent representative of Uganda to the OPCW, on behalf of the Member States of the NAM that are States Parties to the Convention and China, and with the statement of H.E. Ambassador Vusimusi Madonsella, the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the OPCW, on behalf of the Africa Group.

Mr Chairperson,

These sessions promise to be particularly significant, as they take place in a context marked by serious threats to international peace and security, and coincide with the important task of selecting the next leader of our Organization.

As we engage in our exchanges and deliberations, we must remain united, constructive and demonstrate a strong collective commitment to uphold the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention and preserve international peace and security.

The reports presented by the TS provide a reassuring picture of the Organization, as evidenced by the adaptation of its structures and the wide range of activities undertaken throughout to enhance the capacities of States Parties for the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to ensure their preparedness to prevent and respond to any chemical attack or related risk.

Cooperation and capacity-building remain central pillars of the OPCW's work and must continue to be treated as top priorities. In this context, we commend the focus placed on the African continent, given its specific needs and welcome the achievements recorded under the Africa Programme. We commend the inclusive consultative process led by the Technical Secretariat in preparing the Programme's 7th phase, to be launched in January 2026.

Algeria reaffirms its commitment to contributing actively to the Programme. In this regard, we particularly commend the successful organization of a specialized exercise on sampling and analysis in a highly contaminated environment, jointly lately conducted by Algeria and the Technical Secretariat with the commendable support of Germany .

We also note with appreciation the progress achieved in the implementation of extra-budgetary projects, including Chemex Africa II and Chemex GRULAC, which build on the positive results of the first edition successfully held in Algiers in 2023.

Mr Chairperson,

While we are encouraged by the successful activities undertaken thus far, we remain concerned about the challenges our Organization continues to face in the context of highly sensitive international circumstances characterized by escalating regional tensions and conflicts in various parts of the world. These developments pose a real threat to international peace and security and raise renewed concerns about the potential re-emergence of chemical weapons and their use in areas of instability or those that have escalated into direct armed conflict.

Accordingly, my delegation is of the view that OPCW must supervise all such areas, including Gaza, and should pay close attention attacks targeting chemical facilities given the fact that the core objectives of the Organization is to address all chemical threats. The technical Secretariat must also redouble its efforts to achieve universality, a top priority to ensure all actors are bound by the provisions of CWC especially in such circumstances.

We would like to thank the Director general for the information he has shared with us in this regard and would appreciate being kept regularly informed about the various inquiries undertaken by the Technical Secretariat in different regions.

Mr Chairperson ,

It is within this challenging context that we are called upon to select a new leader for our Organization among a number of candidates from different regional groups, reflecting the broad interest in and strong commitment to the work of the OPCW.

Given this demanding environment, it is imperative that the next Director-General be chosen based on merit and demonstrated leadership and carry out her/his responsibilities with the highest degree of competence, impartiality and integrity. As an advocate for international disarmament, Algeria will be supporting a leadership likely to reinforce the OPCW and enable the Organization to continue fulfilling its central role within the international disarmament architecture, a leadership that uphold international law and strengthen multilateral cooperation within the organization.

Finally, I would like to request the full statement of Algeria be circulated as an official document of this session and be published on the OPCW's external and public website.

Thank you for your attention.