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Ambassade d'Algérie à La Haye

سفارة الجزائر بالهاي

Algeria

**Statement by the by H.E Salima Abdelhak, Permanent Representative
of Algeria to OPCW to the 109 session of the Executive Council
Item 20, Appointment of the OPCW Director General
The Hague, 10 July 2025**

Mr. Chairperson,

This year, we have an important task ahead, the appointment of a new Director-General of the OPCW who will lead our Organisation during the upcoming four (04) years. In few months we need to decide on the appropriate leader who will ensure the OPCW will continue fit its noble mandate for a world free of chemical weapons.

The number of candidates from different regions illustrates the continued interest our Organization generates for its contribution to international peace and security. Yet, the responsibility is not easy in a complex international context with several security challenges.

We appreciate the efforts of the Chair of the Executive council in leading this process with the valuable support of the Technical secretariat. The roadmap outlining the process for selecting the next Director-General proved to be very useful, as it guided us methodically through the various stages of the consultation that served as a valuable review exercise of the Convention, allowing us to revisit current challenges and explore the best ways to adapt it to the context of today's world and that of the future."

In this regard, we would like to thank all the candidates who committed themselves to this exercise by engaging in dialogue through bilateral discussions, within the regional groups, and during the informal session of the Executive Council. We had the opportunity to hear their vision for the OPCW, as well as their plans on how they would lead the Organization's work and guide the staff of the Technical Secretariat

My delegation wishes to highlight it must be acknowledged that the positive record of the current Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, and the remarkable achievements attained under his leadership set a high benchmark for his successor.

We rely on your leadership, Mr Chairperson, to reach a consensual selection outcome. We look forward the selection the selection of an able person whose personal abilities and professional competence will enable her or him to firmly lead our organisation with the highest degree of competence, integrity, impartiality, and professionalism in order to continue ensuring the credibility of the OPCW and its effectiveness.

As an advocate for international disarmament, Algeria will be supporting a leadership which is likely to reinforce the OPCW and enable it to continue upholding its central role within the international disarmament architecture, a leadership likely to uphold the international law and strengthen a multilateral cooperation within our organisation.

Thank you for your attention.