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***Mexico: Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano,
Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to the OPCW,
at the 109th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item No. 5,
General Debate.***

(The Hague, July 8, 2025).

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Madam Deputy Director-General, distinguished representatives and delegates:

Mexico expresses its confidence in Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany for his leadership as Chairman of the Executive Council and wishes him the greatest success in guiding the work of its 109th session.

My delegation thanks the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for the information shared in his opening statement, which reflects the professionalism and commendable work carried out by the Technical Secretariat under his leadership, not only during this intersessional period but throughout his tenure.

At this crucial moment, the election of the next Director-General of the OPCW is of paramount importance. We find ourselves in a period of complex challenges, but also unprecedented opportunities to strengthen the chemical weapons non-proliferation regime. The person who succeeds Ambassador Arias will have the task of not only maintaining the course but also building upon the solid foundations he has established, propelling the Organization to new heights of effectiveness and relevance in a constantly evolving global landscape.

Therefore, it is imperative that States Parties exercise their responsibility with the utmost diligence, selecting a leader who possesses the vision, experience, and capabilities necessary to lead the OPCW from the first day of their mandate. We need a figure who inspires confidence, fosters consensus, and demonstrates an unwavering commitment to the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international law. The correct choice will ensure that the OPCW continues to be a fundamental pillar of international peace and security, adapting to emerging challenges and seizing opportunities for a world free of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Mexico views with concern reports indicating an increase in incidents where riot control agents have been used as weapons of war in Ukraine, as confirmed by the third report of the Technical Assistance Visit, which constitutes a clear violation of the Convention.

In this regard, Mexico reiterates its strongest possible condemnation of the use of chemical weapons. We will continue to advocate for the unrestricted application of international law concerning the use of chemical weapons. The documented use of chemical weapons cannot remain unanswered and unpunished.

Mexico views with optimism the progress related to the Syrian Arab Republic's dossier. We believe that the establishment of the Office of Special Missions is a step in the right direction, and we urge Syria to continue cooperating with the Secretariat to fulfill its mandates in accordance with the Convention and all relevant OPCW decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mexico is currently working on identifying experts and specific programs through which it could provide assistance to the provisional Syrian authorities. To be more effective in this task, we would appreciate detailed information on specific needs and requirements.

My delegation congratulates China and the OPCW on the successful organization of the international workshop on Artificial Intelligence and chemical security management, recently held in Shanghai, which contributed to deepening the understanding of the opportunities and challenges that AI presents for the implementation of the Convention.

Finally, in line with its feminist foreign policy, Mexico appreciates the efforts made by the membership and the Technical Secretariat to continue promoting gender equality within the Organization, as well as greater geographical representation.

Thank you very much.

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