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Ambassade d'Algérie à La Haye

سفارة الجزائر بهي لاهاي

ALGERIA

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak
Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic
Republic of Algeria to the OPCW
on Agenda Item (07)
countering Chemical terrorism**

The Hague, 10-13 March 2026

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset we would like to commend the Director General and the technical secretariat for their efforts aiming to involve the OPCW in countering chemical terrorism in light of the risk of the chemical weapons use by non-state actors.

We highlight also the role of the OEWG-T under the chairmanship of Ambassador VusiMusi Madonsella, Permanent Representative of South Africa. It remains a central platform for States Parties to further assess the way and the means that could enable the Organization to better address this topic. It allows also further exchange of views and best experiences sharing, among States Parties as well as with international organizations and stakeholders working for the same purpose.

We acknowledge the benefit earned from the presentations made by representatives from UN and non UN international and regional Organizations, as illustrated in the group's previous meeting where the experience of Interpol in combating terrorism was highlighted.

Collective efforts and joint initiatives are of paramount importance in this endeavor considering the evolving risks Chemical terrorism is posing to national, regional and global security especially in nowadays-instable international environment amid the widespread of conflicts zones and the advance in emerging technologies.

Furthermore, we appreciate that the last meeting of the OEWG on terrorism has shed more light on the importance of enhancing SP capabilities to prevent, mitigate and respond to chemical weapons use or threat of use for terrorist purposes and the central role of OPCW.

This includes reinforcing the adoption of relevant legal framework, building responsive capabilities of national institutions including chemical laboratories capabilities. We stress in this regard, the contribution of designated laboratories in verification and investigation in terrorist chemical incidents.

In this line, we highlight the conduct of the OPCW specialized training on laboratory equipment maintenance held last December in Algiers for the 1st time in Africa, with a special focus on reinforcing capabilities of African laboratories. We welcome also the specialized exercise on sampling and analysis to be held at the NICC next April.

Mr Chairperson,

The OPCW has made, since the inclusion of this item under its agenda, considerable efforts and realized many initiatives that constitute valuable assets in its long experience.

We recall, to mention some, the OPCW multi-component large scale exercise Chemex Africa, held in Algiers that stands as a success story. Building on its positive results especially in enhancing responsive capabilities including against terrorist chemical incidents, we commend the organization of its second edition -Chemex Africa II- likewise -Chemex GRULAC- next May, in Dominican Republic. Algeria reiterates its availability to share the experience gained from its first edition.

We shall not omit the Table-Top exercise on Terrorism held under the OEWG- T in 2023 and its subsequent action plan that outlines its conclusions and take-aways.

Before concluding, My delegation is of the view that it is worth considering AI challenges and potential risks within the open ended group on terrorism as the misuse of these technologies could increase the danger of chemical weapons falling into the hands of terrorist groups or non-state actors, posing serious security threats. Addressing these risks requires careful assessment and targeted measures specifically related to chemical terrorism, ensuring that emerging technologies are not exploited for prohibited purposes.

I thank you for your attention