



Statement by  
Ambassador José Artur Denot Medeiros,  
Permanent Representative of Brazil to the OPCW,  
at the general debate of the 17<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the State Parties

The Hague, 26 November 2012

Mr. President,

I wish to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair and assure you of my delegation's full cooperation.

I would like also to reiterate Brazil's support to the Director-General in his permanent quest to free the world from chemical weapons, a goal we all share. We trust Ambassador Üzümcü and his capacity to lead in the interest of us all. And we hope to welcome him in Brazil in the near future.

Mr. President,

This is a time for consolidation and implementation of our recent agreements, and for mapping the future of the OPCW. This Conference adopted in 2011 fundamental, landmark Decisions on all relevant pending issues, proving once again that a multilateral approach is the best way to tackle the challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation of arms of mass destruction. The priority task before the Policy Making Organs of the OPCW is to implement those Decisions to the fullest extent. To begin with, on the all-important question of the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons, the possessor States have entered public commitments to eliminate them within planned timelines, under an enhanced verification and reporting regime. The credibility of OPCW depends on the satisfactory implementation of this Decision and others of the same political reach. We trust that the possessor States will continue to comply strictly with their commitments. At the same time, attempts to reopen the substantive agreements embodied in those Decisions must be avoided, for they have already proved to be divisive and counterproductive.

Mr. President,

The preparation for the III Review Conference is moving satisfactorily in the Working Group under the chairmanship of the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria, who enjoys all full support. The III RevConf should adopt a streamlined, consensual outcome document containing, firstly, a positive assessment of our achievements as a model security international organization; and, secondly, guidelines for the future, a roadmap for implementing –but not renegotiating– the landmark Decisions adopted by this Conference and the Executive Council in the past year. As we

embark next January in the negotiating phase of the work of the Working Group, we should bear in mind that the III RevConf must be construed as a timely opportunity for highlighting the goals of the Convention, and the strengths of the Organization. Destruction must be accelerated whenever possible and the other pillars of the Convention must be reinforced, namely, prevention of re-emergence of chemical weapons, and international cooperation, assistance and protection. I am sure that the spirit of compromise and constructive engagement that permeates the consensus culture of the OPCW will prevail in this exercise. 2013 brings a different, more positive, more convergent perspective for a Review Conference than 2008, a time of uncertainties about OPCW's future, when the II RevConf took place. We have to learn from our mistakes of the past.

Mr. President,

A final word about the work of the Executive Council. This past year has been a time of achievements for the Council. Not only the Council has successfully cleaned the slate of the most pressing, substantive issues pending before it, it has also launched a much needed exercise of collective self-criticism about its methods of work, aiming at improving its efficiency. And, to top it off, perhaps as a welcome token of the celebration of the fifteenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, the Council, breaking with bad habits, submitted this year to the Conference an agreed Programme and Budget for next year, adorning it with a small decrease in assessed contributions by the State Parties. This is of course nothing more than the Council complying with its obligations, but it is nonetheless a good omen for 2013. Or so I hope.

Thank you.