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UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR OLEXANDER HORIN AMBASSADOR AND
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE OPCW AT THE
EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Ukraine aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would like to make the following additional remarks.

The Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties is taking place at a crucial moment for the OPCW. In the period between the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Sessions of the Conference of the States Parties we have witnessed crucial developments in global peace and security.

Historical decisions taken by the Thirty-Third and Thirty-Fourth Meetings of the Executive Council not only paved the way for an accelerated programme for destruction of Syria's chemical weapons, but they represented a major step forward towards a robust, sustainable and unified international response to the crisis in Syria.

Ukraine is consistently supporting a universality approach towards the Chemical Weapons Convention. From our perspective universality of the Convention is an important factor to enhance its credibility and ensure the irreversible character of chemical disarmament on a global dimension.

Somalia's and Syria's accession to the Convention have made the goal of universality much more real, with only six States remaining outside the Convention.

Recent events in the Syrian Arab Republic set us thinking again about the urgent necessity to bind all international actors with the OPCW obligations. The use of chemical weapons is not permissible under any circumstances.

We strongly believe that in order to create the atmosphere of international trust, transparency and mutual responsibility, and with aim to give a further credibility to the OPCW, we need the highest degree of participation in the Convention. Since some States have not yet made their choice in favour of the Convention, we also believe that it is a common task to use all possible political instruments to convince them to join the Convention in order to achieve its ultimate goal - to make the world free of chemical weapons. My Government appeals to those countries, which have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so without



further delay. In the meantime we urge all States to strictly adhere to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and to exclude any possibility of use of chemical weapons.

Ukraine congratulates the OPCW for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and commends it for its extensive efforts to eliminate chemical weapons. This award shows the wide recognition of the OPCW for its contribution to total prohibition and non-proliferation of chemical weapons globally. We strongly believe that the Convention still remains a unique disarmament and non-proliferation instrument.

Proper realisation of the Convention is guaranteed by the Action Plan on Implementation of Ukraine's commitments under the Convention for 2012-2021.

The Action Plan co-ordinates concerted actions of all governmental bodies and agencies involved in the process of the Convention's implementation. It also manages preparation of adequate national declarations, the escort of the OPCW inspection teams, export control procedures, establishment and functioning of the State Analytical Lab, personnel training, international cooperation in the field, as well as ensuring confidentiality of information.

The Secretariat of the National Authority of Ukraine maintains everyday coordination of activities related to implementation of the Convention. As the result of growing co-operation between the National Authority of Ukraine and the OPCW Technical Secretariat, Ukraine hosted several OPCW training courses on providing first medical aid in case of emergencies, and on analytical skills development for scientists. These workshops proved to be very fruitful and useful in the context of tasks and challenges, which should be addressed in terms of fostering the Convention's regime. Ukraine is ready to continue its collaboration with the OPCW in this direction.

The Third Review Conference noted with satisfaction the prevailing practice of, and the commitment of the States Parties, to adopt decisions by consensus, which had played an important role towards the achievement of common goals and strengthening the authority of the Convention.

Ukraine, as always, seeks integrity and a consensus approach when taking decisions both in its present capacity as Chairperson of the Executive Council and on a national capacity.

Mr Chairman,

At this Session of the Conference we are addressing issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to cooperate fully with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Technical Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organisation aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you, Mr Chairman, and I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Conference.