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HUNGARY

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ORSOLYA SZIJJÁRTÓ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates and guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Mr Chairman, thank you very much for giving me the floor. Please allow me to express my delegation's sincere congratulations to you on your election as Chairman of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation, as well as the members of the bureau. I trust that under your able leadership this Conference will be a successful one. You can count on Hungary's cooperation and support.

Hungary fully aligns itself with the statement made by Mr Jacek Bylica, Special Envoy for Non-Proliferation and Disarmament, on behalf of the European Union. Still, I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

In 2015, we marked the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons in Yeper, and the first chlorine attack to the west of Warsaw during the Battle of Bolimov. These terrible occasions should have taught us a lesson. Yet, even during the past year a growing number of chemical security and safety threats have emerged, including the use of toxic chemicals as weapons and means of terror. The international community has to address these chemical threats and challenges in an effective manner. This horrific experience shows us that the work of the OPCW is crucial in order to make sure that incidents like this do not happen again.

Implementation

Already in the past, Hungary has contributed to the Secretariat's efforts with the intention of helping to ensure more effective implementation of the Convention. For instance, Hungary offered a venue for the training of the Electronic Declaration Tool for National Authorities in 2010, the Article XI seminar in 2013 and was among the first States Parties to join the Secure Information Exchange (SIX) system. We believe that the further improvement and development of such tools (like SIX) would be beneficial for all States Parties.



2015 the Syrian Arab Republic and OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism

A great deal of work has been done in the past and yet we are still not finished. In the Syrian Arab Republic, the OPCW is facing one of its greatest challenges. As regards the continuing use of chemical weapons in the country, Hungary has been part of those who express their grave concerns regarding the recent observations of the Fact-Finding Mission, and reiterates its strong conviction that the individuals responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable. Nevertheless, Hungary welcomes the progress on the destruction of the chemical weapons arsenal and the production facilities of the Syrian Arab Republic. We also welcome the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) that sets up an OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism to identify perpetrators of chemical attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Universalisation

Since its entry into force in 1997, the Chemical Weapons Convention has become the fastest growing treaty in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation currently encompassing 192 States Parties. In 2015 two States joined the Convention, thus, bringing it even closer to becoming a completely universal treaty. Hungary would like to welcome Myanmar and Angola among the States Parties to the Convention. With a view to achieving our common goal of eliminating these weapons, Hungary calls upon those few remaining States not yet Party to the Convention to accede or ratify.

Signature of the OPCW Immunities Agreement

Finally, I am proud to announce that on 3 December 2015, the Agreement between the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and Hungary on the Privileges and Immunities of the OPCW will be signed. The Agreement will provide the legal basis for granting privileges and immunities to the OPCW and certain categories of officials.

Last but not least, Hungary would like to congratulate Dr Alistar Hay and Dr Mahdi Balali-Mood as the joint recipients of the second annual OPCW-The Hague Award.

In conclusion, let me reiterate Hungary's full commitment to and support for the Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW. I wish all of us a productive and successful Conference. I would also like to request this statement to be made an official document of this session of the Conference and posted to both the OPCW external server and the public website.

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