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EFFECTS OF INCREASED AWARENESS OF CHEMICALS AND THEIR PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS THROUGH CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS BY THE OPCW & THE CWC-COALITION

Mister Chairman, Director-General, Your Excellencies, CWC Coalition colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through several trainings, workshops and several other engagements conducted by the OPCW through respective National Authorities of different Member States, there has been increased awareness of the OPCW, CWC, and several chemical-related subjects that are of serious concern not only to people's health but also to the environment.

In a case study of Uganda, several scientific institutions, universities, as well as the industrial community have benefited from several trainings, workshops, and conferences conducted by the OPCW in several chemistry fields like analytical chemistry, chemical safety and security, applications of chemistry, and science and diplomacy, among others.

Through such courses, there has been increased awareness thus translating into reduced misuse of chemicals. For example, previously we could register at least three acid attacks and other chemical misuses per month in the central capital of Uganda-Kampala, and this has drastically now been reduced to utmost one incident every four months. Moreover, this has been primarily accomplished by the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS), Uganda's National Authority, and NEMA through several awareness campaigns as well as creating inventories for chemicals not to have open market access.

Engagement of civil society organizations under the coordination of Dr. Paul Walker through the CWC-Coalition has been instrumental in ensuring their intentional active participation to ensure peaceful uses of chemistry. It is rather a pleasure that the Coalition has been given audience to present in this plenary session, which affirms that its efforts in ensuring a world free of chemical weapons and peaceful uses of chemistry have been recognized. We as a Coalition therefore commend the chief coordinator, the Director-General, and all the responsible entities that made our participation in the plenary possible and we look forward to continued inclusion on the same forum in future years.

In conclusion, the Uganda National Bureau of Standards still commits to its efforts in ensuring a world free of chemical weapons and peaceful uses of chemistry through public and industrial awareness, just as it has always done.

Thank you, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.