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Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition Colleagues,
Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor for me to make this presentation on behalf of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI).

CARI is one of the most important think tanks in South America and has as one of its main objectives to advise the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Worship of Argentina.

Within its organization is the Institute of International Security and Strategic Affairs (ISIAE), of which I am a member. This Institute is responsible for conducting studies, monitoring and advising in all matters related to the prohibition of the development, production, storage and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction.

Argentina has implemented the 1993 Convention through national law 24534, which is of national application throughout its territory, and outside of it in any place subject to national jurisdiction.

Law 24534 enacted in 2007 creates the National Authority, an inter-ministerial body responsible for receiving “sworn declarations” from producers, and controlling and applying sanctions. It is made up of personnel from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, Industry and the Defense Research Center.

All pertinent advice to the National Commission of Application comes from the CARI and in particular from the ISIAE. It arises from consultations with experts, analysis of the documentation produced by the OPCW, exhibitions and debates related to the chemical weapons issue. All of this is within the framework of the Argentine State policies of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, technology transfer and international cooperation.

Within the ISIAE, I have been designated as responsible for keeping this topic up to date. I am very proud of this designation and committed to it.

Between 1989 and 1990 I was a peacekeeper of the United Nations in the Iran-Iraq conflict. There I was able to confirm the disasters caused by the use of chemical weapons.

Argentina, CARI and ISIAE especially value all OPCW actions to destroy chemical weapons and control the production of elements that allow them to be produced for war purposes.

We are very proud to be able to actively interact in the OPCW conventions and we express our gratitude to Dr. Paul Walker for all his efforts so that non-governmental organizations from all over the world can participate in their events.

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