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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW AT THE
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

I congratulate you on assuming the presidency of this Twentieth-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Brazil pleads its full support to you, with a view to a successful outcome of this meeting. I would also like to express our appreciation for the Director-General's leadership and the Technical Secretariat's efforts in carrying out the tasks assigned to the OPCW.

This has been a remarkable year in the history of this Organisation. The OPCW has celebrated 20 years of relentless work towards a world free of chemical weapons.

A State Party, the Russian Federation, completed the destruction of its declared chemical arsenal. As announced by the Director-General, Libya, with the financial and technical assistance of several States Parties, is on track to complete the destruction of its weapons. We commend Germany, in particular, for making possible the destruction of chemical weapons outside the territory of the possessor State.

Furthermore, the next Director-General has been selected by acclamation by the Executive Council, after a transparent process, which involved many highly qualified candidates.

Regrettably, however, 2017 has also been a year in which new cases of chemical weapons use have emerged. Brazil condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, under any circumstances.

It is our view that the consequences of attributing responsibility for the use of chemical weapons are so serious, for the Organisation and its States Parties, that they must be based on the most comprehensive and solid investigations possible, resulting in a report with the highest possible degree of certainty.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that dialogue and cooperation are renewed.

Brazil has always favoured consensual decisions by the Executive Council and believes consensus is the best way to reach decisions in order to preserve the credibility of the Convention and of the Organisation.



Brazil attaches great importance to the national implementation of the Convention and the peaceful uses of chemistry, taking into account the evolution of science pertaining to areas covered by the Convention. In that connection, Brazil remains committed to promote international cooperation, in particular in regard to the Latin American region and the Portuguese-speaking States Parties.

In August 2017, Brazil organised an Exercise on Assistance and Protection for Latin America and the Caribbean. The course benefited 38 participants representing 18 countries of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brazil also took active part in the OPCW Associate Programme and once again was able, in cooperation with the Brazilian chemical industry, to offer positions in the industrial segment of the programme.

This August, Brazil officially opened its “Regional Training Centre for Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons”.

The opening of the centre foster Brazil’s credentials as a provider of assistance and protection in chemical emergencies, as well as of specialised training and capacity building on a regional level.

It puts at the service of international cooperation the country’s experience in cooperation activities and the existing laboratorial and other chemical related infrastructure of our sizeable chemical industry.

We are confident that the Training Centre for Assistance and Protection Against Chemical Weapons will respond to the collective interest in promoting the Assistance and Protection capabilities in the Latin American and Caribbean region.

For the upcoming year, Brazil’s proposals, already presented to the Technical Secretariat, are: a Regional Exercise in Assistance and Protection for Latin American states parties, a Course for Medical Response on incidents involving chemical weapons, and a Basic Course on Assistance and Protection for Portuguese-speaking countries. Additionally, Brazil plans to renew its offering for the industrial segment of the Associate Programme next year.

We appreciate the fact that for the last years the Technical Secretariat has been able to present to the States Parties budget proposals with zero nominal growth.

We recognise the need for the OPCW to count on adequate funding to fulfil its mandate. Despite stringent financial and budgetary constraints, the Brazilian Government has made a considerable effort to keep pace with its assessed contributions to the OPCW and other international organisations.

Brazil remains convinced that the OPCW, and the Convention that established it, constitute exemplary approaches to the continuous effort of the international community to promote a world free of weapons of mass destruction. Brazil firmly believes that with all States Parties fully committed, in words and in actions, to those noble ideals, the objectives of the Convention can and will be achieved.

Thank you.