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**BRAZIL**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR REGINA MARIA CORDEIRO DUNLOP  
REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL  
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

This special session of the Conference of the State Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) was convened against the backdrop of continued allegations of the use of chemical weapons, particularly, but not only, in the Syrian Arab Republic. Those incidents are matter of grave concern, to which the international community should by no means turn a blind eye.

The use of chemical weapons is contrary to the laws of humanity and the dictates of public conscience. We should not admit challenges to this long-sought norm, which was first articulated in The Hague Conference in 1899 and came to full expression with the adoption of the Convention in 1992.

Let me reiterate, at this point, the unswerving commitment of Brazil to the principles and objectives of the Convention, as well as to the strengthening of the OPCW.

The Convention enjoys a unique status among all legal instruments aimed at the elimination of weapons of mass destruction. It is the sole convention with equal rights and obligations to all States Parties and equipped with a verification mechanism of compliance.

Therefore, any attempt to change its provisions or working methods, including the Director-General's and Secretariat's prerogatives, should be carried out with a great deal of caution.

Let me also stress that any change, if is to be adopted, should be assessed by its own added value to the Convention and by no means to make up for protracted impasses or dysfunctionalities in other international bodies.

In Brazil's view, before resorting to additions to the Secretariat's or the Director-General's functions, we should rather make use of the full range of existing provisions in the Convention. We should also ascertain that, for all the possible good intention behind them, they will not allow for further politicisation of our work, thus undermining the OPCW's technical authority.



In our perspective, the most pressing priority for the OPCW is to strengthen its ability to provide credible assurances in case of violations of the Convention.

It is regretful that political differences have thwarted efforts to achieve a greater clarification and the ensuing accountability of recent uses of chemical weapons. The high level of polarisation and the sapping of the culture of consensus in the OPCW, particularly in the Executive Council, are unwarranted.

It was unfortunately against this context that the proposal of a special session was raised. In our view, the item under this session's agenda could be better dealt with in the Review Conference scheduled for this coming November, preceded by discussions within the Executive Council or in the Working Groups set up in preparation for the Review Conference.

Notwithstanding this, Brazil stands ready to engage constructively with all States Parties towards the achievement of our common objectives. Thank you.

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