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ROMANIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DIRECTOR GENERAL NINETA BĂRBULESCU
HEAD OF THE NATIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN ROMANIA
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

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

It is an honour and a privilege to address the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Convention (the Third Review Conference) in front of such a distinguished audience. On a personal note, I am pleased to come back to this distinguished forum, after almost one decade since my previous mandate.

On behalf of the Romanian delegation, I would like to sincerely congratulate you, Ambassador Krzysztof Paturej from Poland, upon your election and to assure you of our full cooperative support for reaching the necessary consensus during this Review Conference. I wish to thank the Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his comprehensive report and for his consistent efforts to promote the work of the Organisation. I wish also to congratulate Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for the excellent way she conducted the work of the Open-Ended Working Group in preparation for this meeting and for the substance of the document as a starting point for this Review Conference.

Romania fully support the statement delivered by Ambassador Jacek Bylica on behalf of the European Union (EU) and its Member States. We associate with the European actions for promoting universality and the national implementation of the Convention, in accordance with the EU Council Decisions 2012/166/CFSP of 23 March 2012 and 2012/712/CFSP of 19 November 2012.

Romania attaches a great importance to the implementation of the Convention as a unique and effective international instrument in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, with an effective verification mechanism in place. After the Convention entered into force, Romania fulfilled the obligations in accordance with the Convention.

One of the essential characteristic of the National Authority for the implementation of the Convention in Romania is the cooperative relationship between the responsibilities in the field of export controls and the implementation of the Convention. The establishment of a



stand-alone body responsible for export controls in 1992, was strengthened by the establishment of the National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention, in 1994.

Since the ratification of the Convention by Romania, as an original State to the convention in 1994, the National Authority evolved through various stages—especially designed for raising awareness of national institutions and to relevant domestic chemical industry and for the adoption of a dedicated primary and secondary legislation for the full implementation of the Convention provisions in my country. Fifteen years ago, the Romanian implementing legislation was assessed by the OPCW Technical Secretariat and was among one of the very first comprehensive domestic legislation in the field.

In addition, the Romanian National Authority adopted a robust outreach programme involving all companies with activities under the authority of the Convention, including a dedicated webpage (www.ancex.ro), with an English version, a friendly on-line consultancy procedure and regular thematic workshops.

I use this opportunity to inform you that this year, we will organise a thematic workshop, on 29 April, dedicated to sixteen years of implementation of the Convention in Romania. Chemical industry representatives, other institutions involved in the activities related to Convention and OPCW representatives will attend.

Since its entry into force, the Convention proves one of the most dynamic instruments of disarmament, as noted by the First Review Conference in 2003 and reaffirmed by the Second Review Conference in 2008. The Convention has made important progress towards universal adherence, evolving from the original 65 countries to 188 States Parties so far.

Since the Second Review Conference five States, namely the Bahamas, the Dominican Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq and Lebanon, had joined the Convention. The universalisation process is bringing its substantive contribution to another important development which is the emerging customary law in the field of chemical disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful uses. So far, the universalisation dynamic made the Chemical Weapons Convention the second successful weapons control agreement in the history, after the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

In light of the OPCW's global cooperation and the significance and impact of the Convention worldwide, my delegation would like to emphasises the essential substantive role of the Parliaments, in particular within the States not Party. The key role of the parliamentary dimension, in domestic political context, might also be strengthened by the parliamentary bodies of relevant regional international organisations—in particular for raising awareness of the core objectives of the Convention and of the progress report of its effective implementation.

One of the Convention central goals is the verification and irreversible destruction of chemical stockpiles by possessor States. Statistics are relevant in this area and we are pleased to have witnessed completion of the destruction processes in Albania, India and A State Party. Romania is one of the supporters of global chemical disarmament and we are confident that the efforts, including financial support, of the remaining chemical weapons possessor States towards the accomplishment of this historical goal of the Convention will continue.

The possessor States should take all necessary measures to complete destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest time possible, in accordance with the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on the issue of the final extended deadline for destruction of the remaining stockpiles (C-16/DEC.11).

In addition, the continuation of the destruction or conversion to peaceful purposes of former chemical weapons production facilities in several States Parties is also tremendously important.

On the other hand, we have to face the proliferation risk in all its aspects and I would like to stress that all States Parties have the responsibility to monitor the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, especially the prohibition measures, in order to preserve the peace, protect human rights and sustained development in the world. Furthermore, avoiding the misuse of the chemicals for weapons of mass destruction programmes, in order to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons by States not Party or non-State actors is another prohibition of the Convention.

I would like to voice our concerns about the recent developments in Syria, and my country fully supports the decision of the United Nation Secretary-General, using its authority under United Nation General Assembly resolution 42/37C (1987) and Security Council Resolution 620 (1988), to establish an investigation on the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria. If the allegations are confirmed it would most probably constitute a violation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol (protocol for the prohibition of the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of bacteriological methods of warfare). The treaty prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons and international customary law as enforced by the entry-into-force and the universalisation process of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The OPCW role in this investigative mechanism will set up a precedent for the cooperation under the Convention and for the legal doctrine of public international law since the interdiction of the use of chemical weapons, in any circumstances. This not only a conventional norm for States Parties to the Convention but also for the entire humankind as customary law. The OPCW is addressing the first serious allegation of chemical weapons use since 1997 and this is also the first time when the Organisation is launching an on-site investigation. We have a saying in Romania "People who don't know the history, might reiterate it" and unfortunately, in the past, allegations of enemy chemical attacks were almost precedent before the initiation of chemical weapons warfare. In conclusion, this international investigation is both timely and necessary and it will also foster the bilateral cooperation with the United Nations.

Another important Convention requirement is the adoption of substantive national legislation in order to create all necessary legal and administrative ways and means for its full implementation, by all natural and legal persons operating activities on the territories of any States Parties. In this respect, we have to recognise that there is still work to do on a national basis in many States Parties that still have to implement comprehensive primary and secondary legislation.

I would like to underline the important role of the regional meetings of the National Authorities from the States Parties of the Convention in achieving the national effective implementation of the Convention provisions. This forum of cooperation is important and useful for the experts of the national authorities and from other institutions involved in

domestic implementation of the Convention. The Romanian National Authority will continue exchanging views on practical implementation measures with other National Authorities from our region and elsewhere, as a valuable opportunity to contribute to the effective and efficient implementation of the regime worldwide. It is now an important moment to also take advantage, on a cross-regional approach, of various lessons learned from different countries challenged with the same working hypothesis, either as regulatory body, licensing decision-making process or enforcement area.

The Third Review Conference should take in account the impact of the scientific and technological developments on the object and the purpose of the Convention. The provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

My delegation supports the idea of considering the issue of incapacitants, in the context of relevant scientific and technological developments, if it will be agreed by the States Parties.

Other important OPCW range of activities are the outreach activities to relevant chemical industry. In this context, an idea for thought would be to organise outreach activities for the benefit of the declarable plant sites, in order to enhance the compliance with the Convention requirements and to create another bridge of cooperation between the OPCW representatives and the chemical industry, additional to other opportunities of exchanging views regarding the non-prohibited activities of the Convention. In the same line, a window on the OPCW website, dedicated to an open dialogue and forum between OPCW and industry, could be also useful for all of us.

Another issue I would like to tackle is the education for chemical disarmament and non-proliferation—in particular by creating and developing new curricula for universities. Both the OPCW and some active non-governmental organisations in this field might be interested in working together also for this goal—a constituent part of the legacy of our generation for the next generations.

In concluding my speech, I would like to convey to you, Mr Chairman, my warmest congratulations and my appreciation to all members of the Technical Secretariat for their dedicated work, assistance and cooperation allowing all States Parties to benefit since the inception of the Organisation, and to express our sincere hopes that the Third Review Conference will provide solutions for the remaining unresolved issues in order to increase the efficiency and the effectiveness of the implementation process.

Thank you for your kind attention!

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Third Review Conference.

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