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Algeria

Statement by H.E Salima Abdelhak, Permanent Representative of Algeria to OPCW at the 110 session of the OPCW Executive Council

Agenda item twelve: Appointment of the DG

The Hague, 07- 10 October 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

First, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior Matter, for her consensual election today as the next General Director. The remarkable determination and perseverance you have demonstrated during the whole process made already of you a member of our OPCW family.

The race was intense, marked by a complex selection process spanning ten rounds of straw polls and competition with eleven exceptional candidates. Your success stands as a remarkable achievement — becoming the first woman in the history of the Organization to assume its leadership and I am proud of this achievement as female ambassadors.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the candidates who brilliantly participated in this competitive process, making it a truly valuable and enriching experience for all of us. We deeply appreciated their campaigns and the spirit of healthy competition they demonstrated, as well as their flexibility and constructive contribution to reaching a consensus on a single candidate to be recommended to the CSP.

M. Chairperson

This achievement would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the EC Chair, Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany, who led the process in a positive, transparent, and inclusive manner thanks to his patience and determination throughout each step of the process.

I am particularly delighted because this process has showcased the Council members' constructive and positive engagement, which continually enables our Organization to achieve success through the shared principles of diplomacy, dialogue, and compromise. We must also acknowledge that the Secretariat's contribution has been exemplary and truly merits our heartfelt appreciation.

Before concluding, I wish to share a few words with our future Director-General. You are entrusted with an important mission—one that carries both great responsibility and tremendous opportunity. Serving 193 Member States, you will help shape a safer, fairer, and more prosperous world for generations to come. You are also fortunate to be able to count on the outgoing Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, whose remarkable achievements and positive record are recognized and appreciated by all of us. His experience and leadership will no doubt serve as a valuable source of guidance and inspiration as you embark on your own mandate.

We have full confidence that you will lead with excellence, integrity, and inclusiveness, while upholding international law, promoting multilateral cooperation, and championing diversity across the Organization.

I wish you good luck in this endeavor and you can always count on the full support of my delegation and my country. I reiterate Algeria standing support to the Organization and its leadership in fulfilling its Nobel mandate and principles.