Courtesy translation -

Mexico: Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to the OPCW, at the 110th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item No. 5, General Debate.

(The Hague, October 7, 2025).

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director-General, Madam Deputy Director-General, distinguished representatives, and delegates:

Mexico wishes the presidency of this Council a successful leadership during the proceedings of its 110th session.

We have listened with great interest to the Director-General's statement, particularly concerning the multiple challenges the Organisation will face in fulfilling its mission in the Syrian Arab Republic. Mexico will do everything in its power to contribute to this objective and urges other States Parties to do the same, in order to conclude this matter, which has been open for over a decade, as soon as possible.

Furthermore, on behalf of my delegation, I wish to acknowledge the cooperation that the delegations of Qatar and Syria have maintained with the Technical Secretariat and the teams from the Office of Special Missions in the fulfillment of their mandates.

The outstanding issues in Syria's initial declaration are a cause for concern for all of us, regardless of our geographical location or group. We cannot allow an undetermined quantity of toxic substances to remain unaccounted for, as there is a risk they could fall into the hands of non-state actors, who in the past have not hesitated to use chemical weapons, as confirmed by the Investigation and Identification Team.

We recognize the effort and dedication of the Technical Secretariat in carrying out its tasks with effectiveness, efficiency, and professionalism, as reflected in the multiple reports submitted for our study and consideration.

We urge the members of the Executive Council to approve the Organisation's Programme and Budget for 2026-2027, so that it may be recommended to

the Conference at its next regular session and the Technical Secretariat can perform its important work with the necessary financial certainty.

True to its multilateral vocation and its foreign policy principles, Mexico will contribute actively and constructively to this task.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation is concerned that several incidents in which the use of chemical weapons has been verified remain unaddressed and with impunity. Furthermore, allegations of the possible use of chemical weapons in Sudan continue to cause unease, as do reports documenting multiple cases where riot control agents have been used as weapons of war in Ukraine, which constitutes a clear violation of the Convention.

In this regard, Mexico reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons and will continue to advocate for the unrestricted application of international law regarding their prohibition.

Mexico has followed with interest the progress made in destroying old and abandoned chemical weapons. We have noted with satisfaction the progress achieved in the intersessional period and urge China and Japan to complete the destruction plan by the scheduled dates.

Mr. Chairperson,

Mexico considers international cooperation in the field of chemical development to be one of the central pillars of the Convention. Therefore, it will continue to support the Secretariat in conducting training and capacity-building activities that strengthen our response capabilities to chemical incidents, as well as the peaceful use of chemistry.

In this context, Mexico reaffirms its commitment to collaborate with the Secretariat to carry out a successful Chemex GRULAC exercise in 2026. We look forward to learning soon the name of the State Party from our region that will be invited, and we invite States Parties from other regions to continue supporting this initiative.

In line with its feminist foreign policy, Mexico appreciates the initiatives from the membership, as well as from the Technical Secretariat, to continue promoting gender equality across the Organisation. In this context, we welcome the participation of several female candidates in the selection process to choose the person who will lead our Organisation starting in 2026. I want to take this opportunity to express, Mr. Chairperson, my delegation's gratitude for your handling of this process, which has not been without its complications.

Thank you very much.