Seventy-Fourth Session
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ITALY

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FRANCESCO AZZARELLO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ITALY TO THE OPCW AT THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Madam Chair, Mr Director-General, Madam Deputy Director-General, distinguished delegates,

Italy fully aligns itself with the statement made by Lithuania on behalf of the European Union.

Allow me a couple of further points in my national capacity.

Italy praises the Director-General, and the Technical Secretariat, for the extraordinary hard work done in exceptional circumstances. Italy also praises the OPCW (and United Nations) staff who are already working and will be working in the next days in Syria.

Italy, as the Director-General has mentioned in his opening statement, has accepted to provide military air transport, particularly useful for the transfer of certain materials and equipments. A C-130 left yesterday for Cyprus, and is planned go to Lebanon tomorrow morning.

Italy is, at this stage, ready to provide such transport for ten days, until 16 October. We hope that, thanks to the necessary coordination of the Technical Secretariat, we will be able to have a planned rotation among States Parties ready to assist with vital air transport.

Italy has offered the Secretariat a further contribution in terms of expertise, other types of personnel, mobile chemical weapons destruction facilities (already planned for Libya).

We look forward, when appropriate, for the Secretariat to exercise an indispensable coordination on what it will need in order to proceed in its mission, looking also at the destruction phase.

Italy wishes to add its voice to the strong support the Director-General, Ambassador Üzümcü, has already received by many States Parties, for the renewal of his appointment for another four-year term.

I would like to request that this statement be treated as an official document of the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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