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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBAROLA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

The work of the Executive Council is beginning in a worrying international atmosphere and in the deep shadow of the terrible suffering caused by the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic; we are obliged to reflect upon the importance of ensuring that the world's chemical arsenal is destroyed, as that is the only guarantee of preventing these awful, unacceptable events from being repeated ever again. We repeat our call to all countries to redouble their efforts to achieve the complete elimination of this kind of weapon.

The accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention is a significant step towards the universality of that instrument. We encourage those countries which have not yet done so to adhere, unconditionally and without delay, to this treaty, and that, for the meantime, they at least comply with the spirit thereof.

Mexico supported the decision of this Executive Council that establishes an unprecedented plan for the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, recognising the mandate of this body to ensure that the duties of the OPCW are fulfilled and its work completed, and that its lofty standards of inspection, verification, transparency and destruction of weapons of mass destruction are preserved.

We, the States Parties, look forward to receiving the Director-General's updated reports on this subject.

We extend our gratitude to Director-General Üzümcü and to the staff of the Technical Secretariat both for actually taking the decision and for the efforts which they are making to address the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mexico expresses its recognition of, and support for, the mandate given to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in various 1988 resolutions, to investigate events in which the use of chemical weapons is suspected; the mandate has proved its usefulness and effectiveness, and must continue to be strengthened in the future.

Mexico recognises that, sixteen years after its entry into force, the Convention has reinforced both its role as the fundamental international norm prohibiting chemical weapons, and its contribution to international peace and security.



Mexico trusts that the determination expressed by the States Parties at the Third Review Conference to achieve the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons will be implemented at an early date, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention itself.

Mexico reaffirms the importance of strengthening the international cooperation pillar of the Convention, with a view to promoting the peaceful use of chemistry, and enhancing the economic and technological development of countries in this sphere. Therefore, we welcome the recommendation of the Third Review Conference, which encourages the Executive Council to continue developing the facilitation process to contribute to the implementation of the provisions of Article XI on technological and scientific development.

In conclusion, I request that this statement be treated as an official document of this session of the Council.

Thank you very much.

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