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KENYA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MS MAKENA MUVHIRI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Your Excellency Mr Chairperson

Allow me to extend my congratulations to you for your chairing of this session. It comes at a time when there is a lot of activity on the ground and it is good evidence that the OPCW is working well.

I wish to align my delegation with the statements made by the Non-Aligned Movement and the African Union.

I would also like to take this chance to congratulate and appreciate the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for the continuing good job they are diligently undertaking to ensure the destruction and elimination of chemical weapons in conjunction with assisting States and partners.

In the last year, particularly the 27 September 2013 Executive Council Decision and the subsequent United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118, set in motion the process of removal and destruction of chemical weapons from the Syrian Arab Republic. My delegation notes the progress made so far despite the serious challenges, and looks forward to the meeting of the deadline of 30 June 2014. I would like to appreciate the support extended to the Syrian Arab Republic by the international community of States, in its accession, declaration, verification and destruction processes. This exhibits the good faith of the community of nations to ensure that accountability and transparency is retained even as we strive to comply with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We should always keep in mind, though, that the OPCW is responsible for other important matters also. There are emerging situations of cooperation that the Technical Secretariat undertakes. I would like, on behalf of my delegation, to express our appreciation to the Director-General and his team for the consistent capacity building and technical assistance that enables Kenya to effectively enhance its capacity and comply with its obligations under the Convention. In fact, Kenya is in the process of ensuring that its annual declaration of past activities is submitted by 31 March 2014. The training and capacity building that the National Implementing Authority had will ensure that this requisite is met each year.

With regard to the fight against terrorism, the Technical Secretariat has from the Second Review Conference been quite active in developing certain areas in relating the fight against



terrorism to the Convention and encouraging Member States to rally in this matter. It has been involved, along with the Open Ended Working Group in matters pertaining but not limited to prevention, mitigation and response, technical assistance, information exchange and international cooperation, safety and security at chemical plants. This fight against terrorism has evolved to include parties who are not bound by the Convention, such as militia who often lack recognition even in the places where they operate. This should provide very creative thinking, especially in my view, with regard to preventing such groups from gaining access to chemical weapons and chemical weapons productions facilities. This matter is certainly fertile for research and cooperative dialogue.

In closing let me take this opportunity to thank my distinguished colleagues for upholding the principles and objectives of this Convention.

I would request that this statement be made a part of the official documentation of this session.

I thank you.

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