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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CHILE AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me, first of all, to extend a welcome to you and to express our confidence that, under your leadership, this session will come to a successful conclusion.

We thank the Director-General for his comprehensive opening statement, and are grateful also for the reports presented by the Vice-Chairpersons on the activities conducted in their respective clusters.

This delegation endorses the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

As regards the programme for elimination of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, this delegation welcomes the fact that, pursuant to the provisions of the decision taken by this Council on 27 September last year, which endorsed the United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) of the process of removing chemical weapons and substances from the Syrian Arab Republic has been completed, 100% of the isopropanol has been destroyed, and other advances have been made, which have been verified by the Organisation. While the removal of the chemical agents did not meet the intermediate deadlines set by this Council, there is no doubt that the conclusion of the process of removing the agents is a major landmark in that country's chemical disarmament programme, and highlights its efforts to fulfil its obligations as a State Party to the Convention – we trust that these efforts will extend to the outstanding tasks. What has been achieved would not have been possible without the essential cooperation of many States and the collaboration between our Organisation and the United Nations through the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, which still has a role to play while other mechanisms for collaboration between the two Organisations are being agreed on. What has been achieved is even more significant if one considers that the task was completed under especially difficult circumstances. Our special recognition goes also to the tireless work of the Technical Secretariat and the Director-General.

There has, moreover, been progress relating to the situation which led this Council to take last September's decision, although there are still matters to be dealt with.

It is important to finish the process that will allow the initial declaration, made by the Syrian authorities on the chemical weapons programme that their country had, to be supplemented, and we are grateful for the efforts being made by the Technical Secretariat in this connection. Now that we have seen progress, we trust that, at the end of this exercise in



confidence-building, any doubt that might exist as to the success of the complete elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme will be dispelled. We shall look forward to receiving the document which the Syrian Arab Republic is committed to provide, with the background to, and detailed information on, the said programme.

Also outstanding is the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities; there has been a long process of consultations on the plans for destruction thereof, and these seem to be starting to bear fruit. As well as recognising the work of the Technical Secretariat, we call upon the States Parties involved in these negotiations to act transparently and constructively so that we can take a decision on the matter as soon as possible.

As regards the Mission to establish the facts surrounding the alleged use of chlorine in the Syrian Arab Republic, this delegation repeats that the conclusions of the Mission's preliminary report cause concern, in the sense that there is a basis for believing that there has again been systematic use of toxic chemicals. We repudiated at the time the attack on that Mission, and expressed our solidarity to its members.

The use of any chemical weapon, under any circumstances, and by any actor, is abominable and in breach of international law. That is why we restate our support for the Director-General's decision that the Mission continues its work, using all means available to gather information that will clarify the facts surrounding those allegations; the foregoing on the understanding that all possible measures will be taken to guarantee the safety of the investigation team. It is important that those responsible for those attacks with toxic substances be brought to justice.

While highlighting the significance of this chemical disarmament process in the Syrian Arab Republic, we should like to refer briefly to other important matters on our agenda.

In the area of assistance and protection, we support the strategy of developing standardised capacity-building activities and training at regional level, to make response capacity to chemical incidents more effective and efficient. In this context, our country is honoured to have been able to contribute to the pilot experience which the Technical Secretariat held in our region, when hosting last March the basic regional course for specialists in responding to chemical warfare agents and industrial chemicals. Once again, we state that we are ready to continue participating in, and collaborating with, this regional initiative.

As regards national implementation measures, we agree that full implementation of Article VII is fundamental to the objectives of the Convention. In this context, we have offered to host in Santiago the fifteenth version of the regional meeting of National Authorities, at which Article VII measures are amongst the main topics to be discussed. As well as having set up our National Authority at an early date and being up-to-date with our declarations, we are working on supplementing and modernising our national legislation on the Convention within a specific body of legislation. After the regional meeting, at our country's request, consultations will be held as part of this effort between our authorities and experts from the Technical Secretariat, and we are obliged to it for having accepted this invitation.

We are pleased to see that the topic of education and outreach has been placed on the agenda of this session. We congratulate the Technical Secretariat on the initiatives it is developing and which it intends to complete in the future, inter alia next September's conference, to maintain the OPCW as the bulwark in the struggle against chemical weapons. We must take

advantage of the stimulus provided by the Nobel Peace Prize and next year's centenary of the large-scale use of chemical weapons, to spread awareness in the academic and scientific sectors, and among the general public, of the risk that exists of chemical weapons being used for purposes prohibited by the Convention.

In the light of the excellent reception of, and results from, the First Regional Meeting on Education in the Responsible Application of Knowledge relating to Dual-Use Chemicals, held in Argentina in April, we encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue developing this regional approach, and to continue translating into Spanish and other official languages of the Organisation the outreach material it has been developing.

Finally, we should like to take this opportunity to recover the constructive spirit and flexibility which the delegations showed during the last facilitation on Article XI, on economic and technological development, to reach consensus on a working method which, we hope, will help us move forward with the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this important component of the Convention.

I should be obliged, Mr Chairman, if this statement could be considered an official document of this session.

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