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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY H.E. PIRAGIBE S. TARRAGÔ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

I am pleased to express, once more, my appreciation for the work carried out under your chairmanship, and ensure you of the full cooperation of my delegation, for a successful outcome of this session. I also thank the Director-General for his opening statement on the activities of the Organisation.

The conflict in the Syrian Arab Republic continues its ominous trajectory. An atmosphere of gloom prevails with, apparently, no end in sight. The human and material losses grow by the day. However, with the cooperation of all the interested parties, we have succeeded in allaying the worst by putting to work a dismantlement programme of the Syrian chemicals arsenal that has so far achieved most of its goals. We hope the OPCW can continue to play a critical role in eliminating the possibility of the recurrence of chemical attacks by any party in that country, as the conflict is prolonged. But, inasmuch as the Syrian conflict stays on in our minds, I will comment on other challenges faced by the Organisation.

One of them is the announced delays in the destruction of stockpiles in the hands of possessor States. Two years ago, possessor States committed to self-imposed timelines, in the sense of periodically adjusted projections, linked to a new verification mechanism, with targets to be kept under scrutiny by the Council and the Director-General. This reinforced regime of transparency and renewed commitment has been working satisfactorily, in particular now, that it has been put to the test. However, the Council cannot be complacent, and should continue to encourage, in this case, the Russian Federation to carefully, and duly monitor the situation in Kizner as it unfolds, while considering mitigation measures to overcome financial woes, and other setbacks.

The Council is meeting amidst great instability in the Middle East and North Africa. It is also faced with a different proliferation dynamics in the region. Whilst in the first quarter of the year we met in a spirit of celebration for the complete destruction of Schedule 1 chemicals in Libya, the national report circulated for this session has confirmed a security breach at the Ruwagha site. As to Iraq, we have learned that, since last July, radical militants would have been in control of a former chemical weapons depot and made attempts to use toxic chemicals against the Iraqi and Kurdish people.



Yet, the OPCW has not been in a position to assess the scale and scope of these incidents, nor to consider if these armed groups acquired the capacity, albeit rudimentary, to deliver military-grade agents. Nonetheless, the risks are worrisome, and require concerted vigilance and cooperation from all States Parties to prevent the deliberate release of toxic gases. On that account, Brazil expects Libya, and hopefully Iraq, to work with the Technical Secretariat to identify any missing chemicals and equipment at these sites, and promptly report to the Council, which should be poised to support them, as required.

Mr Chairman,

A brief word about the Programme and Budget for 2015. My delegation welcomes the proposal as revised after the informal consultations. I am not going, at this moment, to address specific points of the proposal. I would rather take a broader view, as to underscore the balance among the different areas contemplated in the Programme and Budget. I would also like to commend the unfailing work of the facilitators, who have presented an excellent basis on which to frame a decision.

I would ask that this statement be included in the official records of this meeting.

Thank you.

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