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CHILE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MARÍA TERESA INFANTE
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHILE TO THE OPCW AT THE
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

We welcome you again at this Council.

We welcome the report of the Director-General on the status of the Organisation and the activities that have been developing, as well as the reports from the Vice-Presidents and facilitators. We also welcome the new Deputy Director-General, with whom we hope to work closely.

This delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement and China presented this morning by His Excellency Dr Alireza Jahangiri.

As we are convinced of the need to continue moving toward the universality of the Convention, we are pleased that Myanmar has joined this community, as Angola will do next week. We recognise the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to make this possible. We hope that the few states that have yet to accede to the Convention will accept a dialogue with the States Parties and the Secretariat toward aligning their positions toward this important tool.

The complete eradication of all types of chemical weapons—which is still pending—must continue to be a priority for the Organisation; it is for this reason that we welcome the information about the end of the destruction process at four of the facilities in the Russian Federation, as well as the continuation of work in the United States of America and Libya.

We support the draft 2016 programme and budget, which this Council must consider. We recognise the progress made by the Secretariat in terms of the preparation of the programme and budget, and we are ready to continue moving forward. In the context of the efficient use of the contributions of the States Parties, we hope that the Organisation will continue to use results-based management methods.

As regards the present stage of the Organisation's transition, in which inspection activities are decreasing relative to the destruction of declared stockpiles, we are convinced of the need to adequately finance the programmes conducive to supporting the commitment of non-possessor States or States that, to a large extent, do not have a developed chemical industry. Cooperative programmes need to be sustained in the future in order to be productive. The creation of national capacities also contributes to the common goal of



preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and their proliferation, and addresses the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors.

We agree with the approach that the preparation of draft programmes and the budget should incorporate strategic planning criteria, and as such, the decisions of the States should include the vision for the Organisation's future, as well as plans for human resources in the mid- and long-term outlook.

With regard to this point, we value the Director-General's commitment to taking a balanced and proportionate approach to the availability of linguists for the different official languages of the Organisation.

Concerning the budget, we support the establishment of a special fund for special missions in 2016 and the non-distribution of the 2013 cash surplus in line with the terms proposed in the draft decision.

My country reiterates the importance of the fully, effective, and non-discriminatory application of the provisions of Article XI of the Convention with a view to, among other things, stimulating research and the chemical industry, as well as trade among countries toward developing non-prohibited activities. In this regard, we have taken part in the formulation of specific measures via the Non-Aligned Movement and China, and we will work with the new facilitator—whom we welcome—on the task that he has undertaken in order to move forward with the implementation of this pillar of the Convention. We are confident that these proposals, like others that have been presented and may be presented later, will be discussed with the support of the Technical Secretariat in a constructive and objective manner and based on their own merits and feasibility.

Regarding the future priorities of the Organisation, the documents that the Technical Secretariat has put forward for the consideration of the States Parties, as well as the retreat that took place last week in an atmosphere of trust and discretion, have elements that are both solid and promising, both in terms of content and procedure. We are confident that this must be an inclusive, holistic discussion in which the fundamental pillars of the Convention are present, together with the concerns of the various States Parties and the consensus reached at the Third Review Conference. As members, we will have the responsibility to participate in determining the Organisation's strategic areas in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat. For this purpose, an open-ended working group could make a significant contribution ahead of the Fourth Review Conference, which could take place immediately following the Conference of the States Parties in 2018.

We assign key importance to continuing to move forward toward universality, together with the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, and maintaining a solid verification regime, which must be adequate to cope with new challenges in security and technological developments, as well as the fine line between chemistry and biology. Equally important is strengthening cooperation with relevant international organisations, industry, the academic community and the public in an effort to maintain skills and abilities so that they are capable not only of advancing the development of chemistry for non-prohibited means, but also dealing with contingencies and the use of chemical weapons, for example, by non-State actors.

When it comes to the task of ensuring full compliance with the Convention and avoiding the re-emergence of chemical weapons, education and outreach play a fundamental role. We reaffirm our support for the creation of an Advisory Board for Education and Outreach, we welcome Ambassador Delvalle in his role as facilitator, and we are certain that when designating members, due efforts will be made to ensure an adequate balance in terms of gender and geographical representation in addition to experience.

The above is interconnected with the promotion of the responsible use of chemistry and actions aimed at preventing the use of chemical agents for purposes prohibited by the Convention. For this reason, we welcome the development of “The Hague Ethical Guidelines”. We acknowledge the support of the Technical Secretariat to promote this initiative from Germany. Our delegation has already called the attention of our national authorities to these guidelines to promote its implementation on a domestic level.

With regard to the chemical disarmament process in the Syrian Arab Republic, we await the forthcoming termination of the destruction of the production facilities and a more in-depth review of the initial declaration of this country with an active role to be played by the Technical Secretariat’s Declaration Assessment Team, in light of the time that has passed, pending matters, and as-of-yet unclarified discrepancies. We value the work that is being done and we are confident that the Syrian Government will redouble its efforts to guarantee the accuracy and completeness of the declaration, clearing away any questions that might remain regarding the termination of the chemical weapons programme.

We look forward to reviewing the reports that the Director-General will present on the work performed by the Fact-Finding Mission.

The condemnation of any use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances is a value that we share, and we call for continued, effective cooperation with the investigations, and we appreciate its impartial and objective position. All credible allegations of the use of chemical agents as weapons in Syria must be investigated by the Fact-Finding Mission.

The denunciation of the use of chemical weapons and the conviction that those responsible—regardless of who they may be—must be held accountable for their actions led our country to approve United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), establishing a Joint Investigative Mechanism between the OPCW and the United Nations. At the same time, we support this new instance of professional, impartial cooperation between both organisations.

The reports of chemical weapons attacks by non-state actors in Iraq are also worrying. We have noted the report by that country’s Government stating that it is investigating these incidents, and we appreciate that it has accepted an offer of assistance from the OPCW. We await more information about this matter in the future.

We also appreciate the support of the Technical Secretariat in preparing documents for discussion within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism on measures to prevent the hostile use of toxic chemicals by non-State actors, and one document on holding said actors accountable. We recall and value the work that has been done by this group since 2013 under the guidance of Her Excellency Nimota Nihinlola Akanbi and currently led by His Excellency Dr Joe Tony Aidoo, whom we will help to address specific

matters under the Convention with the valued cooperation of the States Parties. Your support in facing this task is welcome and necessary.

We would be most grateful if this statement could be considered an official document of this session and published on the Organisation's website.

Thank you.

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