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PERU

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PERU AT THE
EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson Ambassador Odette Melono,

I would like to begin my statement by offering the full support of my delegation for the successful conclusion of this session of the Executive Council.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China voiced by our colleague, the distinguished Ambassador of Venezuela.

We also welcome the Director-General's presentation, and we value the efforts that the Technical Secretariat is making to promote the Organisation's role within the system of international security and cooperation.

The turmoil of the Syrian people is certainly at the forefront of our thoughts and worries as we, at this session, address the matters surrounding the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, and it is logical and legitimate that it should be so. The international community cannot remain indifferent, especially the parties who are directly involved and who have the responsibility to foment the political will to put an end to this untenable situation.

Within this context, with regard to the issues and situations related specifically to the mandate of the OPCW, my delegation will support every effort to adopt decisions on initiatives that respond to the criteria of relevance, objectivity, and opportunity, and that can reunite the broadest possible consensus of the members of this Executive Council.

It necessary that we highlight the efforts that the Technical Secretariat continues to carry out toward maintaining an open dialogue with representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic on the initial declaration of said country. Without a doubt, these efforts have made it possible to make some progress on this matter, no matter how limited that progress may be.

Nonetheless, there are still many details that require clarification. There is no doubt that real limitations exist due to the current security conditions making it very difficult to carry out the work related to inspections, investigations, verification, and destruction; we have already seen as much from the reports presented by the Declaration Assessment Team working in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Joint Investigative Mechanism established by the Security Council, the latest report of which was recently made available by the OPCW Technical Secretariat.



These valid obstacles notwithstanding, it is essential that the work continue to clarify the acts—which have affected and continue to affect the Syrian people—involving the use of chemical weapons. In this regard, Peru reiterates its condemnation of the use of said weapons by any person or entity, in any form, and under any circumstances, and renews its call to the Syrian Arab Republic to redouble its efforts and engage in the broadest possible cooperation in an effort to clarify the existing discrepancies and identify the additional amendments necessary to rule out any errors or omissions, in full compliance with the obligations undertaken together with the international community as a whole. As far as the third report of the Joint Investigative Mechanism is concerned, in spite of the difficult circumstances that were faced in preparing this report, it contains information, the gravity of which merits all of the attention of this Council. We await the final report, which is to be submitted soon to the Security Council.

We are also profoundly concerned about the violent attacks by non-State actors against civilians that are affecting not only the life of millions of innocent people, but also posing a threat to international peace. Without a doubt, the use of chemical weapons by these groups should motivate us to be as vigilant as possible.

Within this context, the efforts of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and its Sub-Group on Non-State Actors constitute an element of great importance as we reflect on the role that this prestigious Organisation must carry out as it faces the threat posed to international peace and security by the use of chemical weapons on the part of non-State actors.

I would like to kindly request, Madam Chairperson, that this statement be considered an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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