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MEXICO

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBARROLA NICOLÍN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to begin by voicing my delegation's recognition of Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon and her dedicated work at the head of this Council.

We have also noted with interest the words of the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, whom we thank for his tireless work, together with the rest of the staff of the Technical Secretariat.

A few weeks ago in Mexico, we celebrated the Fiftieth Anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Tlatelolco, an instrument that established the Agency for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has served as a global point of reference for having created an environment of peace, security, trust, and stability in our densely populated region, and marks a milestone in establishing other zones free of nuclear weapons.

In a similar vein, in a few weeks from now in The Hague, we will be commemorating the Twentieth Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the establishment of the OPCW, an entity that became a proud and worthy laureate of the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013.

The state of the world today makes this anniversary particularly relevant. The growing presence and capabilities of non-State actors, combined with the persistent use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals, are some of the challenges that oblige us to redouble our joint efforts and, at the same time, boost awareness and the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes and the socioeconomic wellbeing for current and future generations; this information needs to be spread among various social sectors—the youth and children in particular.

Today, more than ever, it is critical that we achieve universality of the Convention, strengthen the international legal framework and its institutions, and effectively implement the decisions thereof.

Mexico recognises the value and importance of continuing to foster international cooperation in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation and in doing so avoiding, when possible, taking positions that could divide the Organisation and hinder the fulfilment of its mandate.



For this reason, we urge all States Parties to continue to provide their unrestricted support for the activities aimed at verifying and destroying chemical stockpiles and production facilities, as well as international actions to investigate the use of chemical weapons and hold the perpetrators accountable.

In particular, Mexico urges the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat to continue to deepen a respectful, productive, and uninterrupted dialogue, with a view to achieving the complete and objective implementation of Syria's obligations under the Convention, as well as the decisions adopted by this Council.

Within this context of cooperation, we applaud the progress achieved by the Secretariat and the States Parties in terms of destruction and verification, and we call upon all States Parties to redouble their efforts to meet the established deadlines in the soonest possible time.

Mexico considers the new statement presented by Australia and Switzerland to be positive, as it speaks out in favour of a broader, more multidisciplinary discussion that would address legal, technical, medical, and humanitarian aspects of the use of central nervous system-acting chemicals for the purpose of applying the law.

Furthermore, we welcome the various measures that will be presented at this Council to expand and broaden the application of the Convention in all regions and for all of the issues it covers, highlighting in particular the measures taken to strengthen the verification and declaration regime in order to improve the protection and exchange of confidential information, and to modernise and regularly update sources of information, as well as the Organisation's technological and operative capabilities.

In this regard, I would like to acknowledge the important work being carried out by the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities, the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, and its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors.

As we all know, there are currently many challenges and opportunities facing the Organisation today. Nevertheless, the roadmap that Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü has drawn up puts us on the proper course, which we will continue to follow under the direction of the Organisation's next Director-General. Mexico welcomes the call for the appointment of the next Director-General, and trusts that this Council will unite and form a consensus in support of the best candidate, who is due to be appointed at the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties this year.

In conclusion, as a result of Mexico's commitment to continue supporting training efforts and the development of national capabilities, and within the framework of the events commemorating the Twentieth Anniversary of the OPCW, my country voices its interest in being considered as a host of an exercise in assistance and protection for the Latin American and Caribbean region and is currently in the process of working out the relevant details with the Secretariat to make this happen in the last quarter of 2017.

I kindly request that this statement be published on the OPCW's webpage and be considered a public and official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.