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REPORT BY THE VICE-CHAIRPERSON ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS ISSUES H.E. AMBASSADOR ROMAN BUŽEK OF SLOVAKIA UNDER AGENDA ITEM 2

Thank you, Mr Chairperson,

In the field of assistance and protection against chemical weapons (Article X) I am pleased to inform the Executive Council that the facilitator for Article X, Mr Martin Brož of the Czech Republic organised one round of consultations during the intersessional period.

The informal consultations were held on 19 June 2017. Various issues were discussed during the meeting, most importantly activities relating to assistance and protection. An update of the recent activities was delivered by the representatives of the Assistance and Protection Branch of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in the presence of the Head of Branch.

The presentation enabled the Technical Secretariat to summarise the offers of assistance made by States Parties under paragraph 7 of Article X. The importance of the Voluntary Fund for Assistance was stressed. The Executive Council appealed to States Parties to consider new offers within the framework of the newly adapted electronic Assistance and Protection Database.

I wish to thank all the States Parties involved for their engagement in the consultations. I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express my gratitude to Mr Martin Brož of the Czech Republic for his skilled leadership of facilitations upon the fulfilment of his tenure.

I would also like to commend the Permanent Representation of the Czech Republic for its readiness to continue as the facilitator and would like to ask the Executive Council to approve the candidacy of Mr Martin Pizinger for the post of the facilitator for Article X.

The facilitator Mr Brož will brief the Council in more detail under Agenda Subitem 6 (K): (Article X: briefings by the facilitator and the Technical Secretariat.)

This concludes my oral report.

Thank you for the attention.

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