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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR REGINA CORDEIRO DUNLOP
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

As the Executive Council will, in this session, discuss several issues with reflections for the next and the future years, allow me, as customary, to extend to you the assurances of my full commitment and cooperation to its success.

The issues I refer to are known to us all. First of all, the progress in the destruction and verification activities by possessor States and the OPCW becomes more and more relevant as the final deadlines approach. We welcome the concrete efforts and steady flow of information from all parties involved.

We look forward to the reports and the discussion on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, including news on updates of the Syrian declaration and the corresponding verification activities by the OPCW, as well as progress in the investigations of alleged use of chemical weapons more recently.

Brazil recognises the ongoing work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, including the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, as well as of the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities of the OPCW. We see those processes as part of the efforts of States Parties in rising up to the challenges the OPCW experiences now and will in the future.

Regarding administrative issues, we commend the endeavours of the facilitators and of those delegations engaged in the discussions leading to a draft decision on the Budget and Programme for the OPCW in 2018. This included preparations for the Fourth Review Conference of the Chemical Weapons Convention, due next year.

On International Cooperation and Assistance, Brazil is pleased to announce, once again, its intention to host a Capacity-building Cycle in Assistance and Protection for Portuguese-speaking Member States in May 2018, a Regional Exercise in Assistance and Protection for the GRULAC Member States of the Chemical Weapons Convention in August, and also to participate in the next edition of the OPCW Associate Programme.

Perhaps the most anticipated decision for this session of the Executive Council will be the one referring to the appointment of the next Director-General. In this regard, allow me to



express our gratitude to all the candidates and delegations involved in several rounds of consultations, as well as for their availability for regional and bilateral meetings. We wish to extend a special note of thanks to you, Ambassador Belal, for your guidance throughout this process, which was guided by our common interest in selecting a Director-General by consensus. We look forward to this decision by the Council and its confirmation by the Conference of the States Parties later this year. We congratulate Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership throughout the process.

Thank you.

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