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BRAZIL

**STATEMENT BY MR LEONARDO LUÍS GORGULHO NOGUEIRA FERNANDES
MINISTER-COUNSELLOR
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BRAZIL TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Brazil is grateful to see you back in the chair of this Executive Council. I also thank the Director-General for his opening statement and for his continued efforts to carry out the implementation of the Executive Council's decisions.

Brazil attaches great relevance to the work of both the Open-Ended Working Group on the Review Conference and the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities of the OPCW. The facilitators, the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat have shown remarkable engagement in these exercises. We encourage the continuation of a transparent, inclusive and consensus-based process in each of these fora, so that in the upcoming Review Conference States Parties can accomplish the expected results and enhance the effectiveness of the Organisation.

With a view to maintaining the achievements of the Organisation in the last two decades in the elimination of chemical stockpiles, without disregarding cooperation and technical capacity-building, a redoubled effort to strike the necessary balance among the Organisation's pillars is of the essence.

We should continuously refer to the permanent objectives of the Organisation, as laid down in the Chemical Weapons Convention and confirmed during the previous Review Conference, among which:

- (a) the destruction of declared chemical arsenals;
- (b) the universalisation of the Convention;
- (c) the enhancement of assistance and international cooperation initiatives;
- (d) national implementation; and
- (e) the preservation of both the technical-scientific knowledge and the expertise gathered by the Organisation.



Only with a careful balance among those objectives will the OPCW further strengthen the recognition of the international community for its work. It is, therefore, a matter of concern to perceive a tendency to overemphasize compliance to the detriment of international assistance and cooperation, capacity-building or the right of States Parties to economic and technological development.

As destruction activities near completion, our Organisation needs to be mindful of new challenges. Updated methods of work and technologies are a necessary part of this process. They should be inspired, nevertheless, by the broader goals of the Convention, including international cooperation and economic development, and not only guided by their usefulness in investigations.

It is with sadness that I raise, once again, the issue of the Syrian dossier. Brazil condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone, and under any circumstances. Achieving a world free of chemical weapons includes accountability for those responsible for their use. Brazil is troubled, however, to witness increasing and persistent polarisation on this topic.

The paralysis of debates in this Executive Council directly affects the prestige and credibility of the OPCW as a whole. It would be extremely frustrating to see the prevailing political environment regarding the Syrian situation to spread to other activities of the Organisation. It is our duty to protect the OPCW from a systemic contamination. The Organisation`s work is too important, encompassing and global to be subject to polarisation in one of its dossiers.

Brazil will continue to strive for unified, effective and consensual actions by the Executive Council to implement the Convention and recover our ability to promote OPCW`s ultimate objectives.

Thank you.

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