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UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ABDULLAH HAMDAN AI-NAQBI
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE STATE OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Chairperson of the Conference,
Director-General of the OPCW,
Heads of attending delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the State of the United Arab Emirates, it is my pleasure to congratulate you, Excellency, on your election as Chairperson of the present session of the Conference. I am fully confident that your experience in the work and affairs of the OPCW will enable you to perform your mandate in the best possible manner. We wish you success in your tasks.

I shall not fail to extend my profuse thanks to H.E. Ambassador Paul Arkwright, Chairperson of the previous Sixteenth Session of the Conference for the efforts he has made during the period of his chairmanship of that session. Likewise, I wish to take this opportunity to commend the efforts made by the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, in ensuring that the OPCW fulfils all aspects of its mandate.

As we proceed with our Seventeenth Session, we need to commend the progress achieved in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This is reflected in several achievements by our Organisation, including:

1. The successful verification of the destruction of more than 75% of the total amount of chemical weapons stockpiles declared worldwide. In this regard, I wish to commend the progress achieved by Libya, Iraq, the United States of America and the Russian Federation towards the disposal of their chemical weapons, as well as the progress in implementation of the plan for the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China.

In view of States Parties' obligations under the Convention, we wish to add our voice to international demands that the States Parties concerned meet the specified deadlines for the disposal and destruction of their chemical weapons, thus reinforcing the credibility of the Convention.



We also wish to call for fostering international cooperation and developing the exchange of knowledge in the chemical field for peaceful and non-prohibited purposes under the Convention, this being a key condition for meeting its objectives.

2. The perseverance of the OPCW in achieving the universality of the Convention, thus advancing its objectives and making a worthy contribution to a stronger global peace and security. To date, the number of States Parties stands at 188, and there remain only a very few States that have yet to ratify or accede to the Convention, which makes it the fastest growing international treaty, notwithstanding its relatively recent inception.

I stress the need for the Director-General of the OPCW to persevere in his efforts to engage the representatives of States not-Party, with a view to raising their awareness of the importance of joining the Convention.

I also wish to note the importance of the efforts made towards the establishment of a zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East. We regret the announcement that the conference on this subject scheduled for 2012 could not be convened as expected, and we call upon the OPCW and all States to push for convening it at the earliest opportunity in 2013.

3. The signing by the OPCW of the supplementary arrangement for the implementation of its Relationship Agreement with the United Nations, which provides that the two organisations shall cooperate in case of an investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons in a State not Party to the Convention or in a territory not under the control of a State Party thereto, and that such an investigation shall be conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. This gives our Organisation its own role in preserving international peace and security.

Through its National Committee for the Imports and Exports of Controlled Goods and Substances, entrusted with the implementation of the national law on the prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, the State of the United Arab Emirates has endeavoured to tighten its internal control of chemicals, and develop a model for permits of imports and exports, thus facilitating the submission of annual declarations using the OPCW electronic software EDNA.

Internal regulations for the national law have been prepared, and we shall work on speeding up their completion for adoption, in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

Our National Authority took part in the Tenth Regional Meeting for the National Authorities of the Asian States Parties to the Convention, held last June in Sri Lanka. This annual regional meeting provides the Asian States Parties with an opportunity to cooperate with a view to promoting the universality of the Convention and a better implementation of its provisions.

As we are working together on the preparations for the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, to be held next year, we thank H.E Ambassador Nassima Baghli, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the OPCW, and Chairperson of the open-ended working group for preparations for the Third Review Conference, as well as the members of the working

group for their efforts. We reaffirm the support of the State of the United Arab Emirates for the upcoming Review Conference to attain its desired objectives.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, we hope that our deliberations during this session will contribute to yet further progress in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I wish to request that this statement be adopted as one of the official documents of the Conference.

I thank you.

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