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UKRAINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR OLEXANDER HORIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all I would like to join previous speakers in extending my warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, upon your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Conference. We are convinced, that your skills and experience will allow you to steer successfully the work of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference. In performing your important duties you may completely rely on the full support and co-operation of the delegation of Ukraine.

I would also like to thank the former Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland for his role and contribution to the previous Sixteenth Session of the Conference.

It is also a great pleasure for us to extend our greetings of welcome to the OPCW Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and express gratitude to him and the Technical Secretariat staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring progress in implementation of the Convention, promoting its universality and raising awareness about its important role in global multilateral disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

The delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Cyprus on behalf of the European Union.

Universality of the Convention is an important factor to enhance its credibility and ensure the irreversible character of chemical disarmament in global dimension. All of us repeatedly declare that the fifteenth anniversary of the regime has proved that the Convention has become the most successful of all disarmament treaties and one of the milestones of global peace and security. However, the fact that the Convention has not become universal yet is a matter of regret. Unfortunately, despite enormous and consistent efforts undertaken by the OPCW and States Parties with those countries which remain outside the Convention, this ambitious target has not been achieved so far.

Recent developments in the Middle East set us thinking again about the urgent necessity to bind all international actors with the Convention obligations.



Notwithstanding the fact that some chemical weapons possessor States Parties missed the target to eliminate weapons by the defined date this year, we welcome the decision of the last Conference of the States Parties on the final extended deadline to complete destruction of the remaining stockpiles within the shortest time possible. In this regard the verification regime is a crucial element of multilateral control over destruction of chemical weapons, as well as the tool to deter chemical proliferation.

Ukraine has always displayed utmost responsibility in the implementation of its obligations under the international treaties. The unconditional compliance with the Convention remains in the priority list of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine. In this regard I am pleased to inform that recently the President of Ukraine approved by his decree the Action Plan on implementation of Ukraine's commitments under the Convention for 2012-2021.

The Action Plan co-ordinates concerted actions of all governmental bodies and agencies involved in the process of the Convention implementation, in particular, on the following substantive directions:

- (a) National declarations.
- (b) OPCW Inspections.
- (c) Transfer of the scheduled chemicals.
- (d) Establishment of the State Analytical Laboratory.
- (e) Confidential information protection.
- (f) International cooperation and personnel training.

Ukraine is among those States which have a significant potential for cooperation in the framework of Articles X and XI of the Convention, taking into account its human and technical resources, high scientific and technological capacities.

This year Ukraine hosted several OPCW training courses on providing first medical assistance in case of emergencies and on analytical skills development for scientists. These workshops proved to be very fruitful and useful in the context of tasks and challenges, which should be addressed in terms of fostering Convention regime. Ukraine is ready to continue its collaboration with the OPCW in this direction.

One can hardly overestimate the role of the Convention in irreversible elimination and non-proliferation of the whole WMD category. Indeed, until nowadays the risks related to the misuse of WMD remain one of the most hazardous challenges for the international community. We should not forget about diversity of possible challenges in light of the changing security environment and rapid developments in science and technology.

The OPCW proved to be an effective mechanism in the destruction of chemical weapons, in monitoring international transfers of listed chemicals, as well as in promoting fruitful international cooperation and development of science and technology. Recognising the important role played by the OPCW in strengthening international peace and security, as well as in contributing to sustainable development, Ukraine supports efforts aimed at preserving and even broadening the OPCW's significant potential to be able to effectively respond to emerging threats and challenges to security. I do believe the international community will focus on other OPCW priorities, in particular promoting inter-State cooperation in the field of chemical safety and security, more active engagement of other international organisations,

scientific and industrial players in this field. Ukraine expects these issues will be duly addressed during the Review Conference of 2013.

OPCW activity is based on an efficient budgetary system and we appreciate the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to improve the effectiveness of cost management - including spending optimisation.

As I mentioned before, the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties is conducted against the background of the fifteenth anniversary since the entry into force of the Convention, while the set of international events were organised to draw attention of the governments, chemical industry, and scientific community to the role of the Convention. From our perspective, this campaign has reached its important goal and I would like to thank all contributors for their tireless and devoted efforts in this regard.

In closing, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference.

Thank you for attention.

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