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PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ROBERTO CALZADILLA SARMIENTO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PLURINATIONAL STATE OF BOLIVIA
TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished delegates,

I should like to offer my congratulations on your election to the Chair of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and express the confidence of my delegation in your ability to direct this session to a successful conclusion. I also welcome the presence of Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the OPCW, at the same time extending my thanks to him for his important and complete report on the OPCW's activities.

My delegation also supports the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, which was made through the good offices of the distinguished Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is celebrating the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. This allows us to review the fundamental reasons for the establishment of the OPCW, essentially to create a world free of chemical weapons, to destroy the existence of chemical weapons, and to prevent their re-emergence, and consequently setting up an exemplary multilateral regime in the field of disarmament and in accordance with the principles of the United Nations.

We regret that since 29 April this year, which was the deadline for destruction of chemical arsenals, weapons of mass destruction are still with us and still constitute a serious threat to international peace and security. Total destruction of chemical weapons is a fundamental pillar of the Convention, as it is one of the primary obligations of the three States that possess this material, and therefore we appeal to them once more to complete destruction of the arsenals of chemical weapons as soon as possible.

At this Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, I should like to express the position of the delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia on the matters on our agenda:

1. The Director-General has presented us with the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2013, with a reduction of 2.2% as compared to 2012, without taking the costs of the Third Review Conference into account. We congratulate the Technical Secretariat



on the efforts made to achieve this efficient allocation of resources for management in 2013. While we value efficiency for future budgetary programmes, we should not like to see a diminution in the importance that full implementation of each article of the Convention ought to be given.

2. We appreciate the plan of action relating to the fulfilment of the obligations provided for in Article VII. In this context, the Plurinational State of Bolivia takes the liberty of informing that, at present, the preliminary draft of the Law on Firearms, Munitions, Explosives and Related Materials is being considered and revised during the Plurinational Assembly. This document contains the key elements for achieving full compliance with our obligations under Article VII of the Convention. I take this opportunity to extend our welcome to the new Legal Adviser, Mr Alberto Dojas, who will have a contribution to make in the complete implementation of this article.
3. As regards the topic of universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention, we appeal to the eight States not Party to ratify and/or adhere to the Convention and to the Technical Secretariat to continue all necessary actions and efforts in this area.
4. We take the liberty of repeating our commitment to and support for the conduct of Article XI activities designed to develop new strategies, and, in this context, we see an urgent necessity for creating an action plan for full implementation thereof. While we congratulate Mr Mark Albon, confirmed as Director of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, we praise the work of this Division, which is developing efficiently activities and programmes designed for the implementation of this article. Last month, Bolivia participated in the second regional workshop on international cooperation which was held in Montevideo, Uruguay.
5. Turning to Article X, my delegation recognises the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat. We should moreover like to stress that the Plurinational State of Bolivia is following with great interest the activities being developed in the process of implementing this article. Therefore, Bolivia participated in the 13th workshop on coordination of assistance and protection, which was held last October in Tivat, Montenegro, at which the Technical Secretariat collected information relating to the priorities and necessities expressed by the participants. Once this information has been analysed, it will be added to the assistance and cooperation programme. Furthermore, we offer our full support to the work of the Technical Secretariat for undertaking the matter of the regional and subregional centres of excellence.
6. A few months before we hold the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, we have finished a cycle of meetings of the open-ended working group, under the able leadership of the Ambassador of Algeria, H.E. Nassima Baghli, whose initial document we await for analysis and discussion. We consider it important to be clear that the next Review Conference will be a time for reflection, constructive criticism, and recommendations, without losing sight of our objective, which is the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of each and every one of the provisions of the Convention.

However, during the last meetings held within the framework of preparing for the next Review Conference, a concern has arisen to find points of coincidence and synergies among Article VI, VII, X, and XI of the Convention. It is appropriate to recall that the Convention

must be implemented in its entirety, without forgetting that each objective has its own distinct character, meaning and individual spirit.

Considering all that we have achieved, and recognising that we still have serious obligations to fulfil, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, which is pacifist in character, once more repeats its full support for the principle of complete general disarmament under an international control that is both strict and effective. This includes the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction and Bolivia's commitment to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

I should be obliged if this statement could be circulated as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you very much.

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