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MEXICO

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR EDUARDO IBARROLA NICOLÍN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Mr. Chairman,

I congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and assure you of my personal support and the support of my delegation in the conduct of the work of this important Session. We know your diplomatic qualities, and so we are sure that our Session will be successful.

I also salute the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, and his staff at the Technical Secretariat; apart from the normal work of the OPCW, they have, in recent months, distinguished themselves by their professionalism in carrying out the programme for destruction of Syrian chemical weapons.

Moreover, Mexico should like to express its recognition to Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for the work he has done at the head of the Organisation in recent years. Continuity of his mandate will help us to continue moving forward positively in the application of the four pillars of the Convention: disarmament, non-proliferation, assistance and protection, and international cooperation.

At the beginning of the year, the work of the OPCW was characterised by the intense preparation for the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Third Review Conference). Latterly, confirmation of the use of chemical weapons in Syria led us in recent months to concentrate our time and resources in attending to this sensitive matter in an urgent, priority manner.

I want to highlight the principal role played by the Executive Council. This normative body has taken exceptional decisions, always safeguarding the consensus, which besides establishing an unprecedented plan for verification and destruction of the chemical weapons in Syria and preserving the highest inspection standard and the OPCW's transparency, has ushered in the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, which is acting surely and effectively, without restrictions, and in accordance with the modalities of cooperation in the area of competence of each of these two organisations.

My country welcomes the fact that, when faced with this emergency, the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat rose to the challenge of such a difficult, sensitive situation. We observed how multilateral diplomacy highlighted the fundamental role of the OPCW in the



modern world in the quest for international peace and security. Therefore, we congratulate the OPCW once more on having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013, by which the international community recognised the remarkable work of the OPCW towards the final elimination of chemical weapons.

We also welcome the fact that this year two more States adhered to the Convention (Somalia and Syria), raising the number of States Parties to 190. However, we must continue to work towards universality. Mexico repeats its insistent call to those States which have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to adhere without delay. More immediately, and given the difficult period which the OPCW is experiencing, we call upon them to comply with the spirit of the Convention, and to join those of us who are fighting to build a peaceful world, safe and free from weapons of mass destruction.

In April we held the Third Review Conference. This was a valuable opportunity to assess progress in consolidating the regime it establishes and the challenges which we will face in the near future – how to achieve universality of the Convention and eliminate chemical weapons from the world. We must continue to pursue these objectives energetically.

Mexico is as committed to international disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as it is to international cooperation. We feel that each and every one of us, the States Parties, faces the task of fulfilling its obligations with no preconditions of any kind, while at the same time pursuing the rights granted by Convention.

We must continue to push for full compliance with all aspects of the Convention, both in the total elimination of the arsenals of chemical weapons and in verification, assistance and protection, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes – these areas are not prohibited by the Convention.

Mexico supports the Programme and Budget for 2014, and notes with interest the proposal to conduct a greater number of inspections in 2014, which is intended to bolster the Convention's verification system.

My country is grateful for the significant support provided by the OPCW in the holding of regional courses and workshops in Mexico in August and October last, which were directed both at the Latin American region and Mexico's industry, and which were designed to promote national implementation of the Convention, the preparation of declarations and safety in the chemical industry.

Mexico is committed to disarmament and the non-proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, and the systems of delivery of same. Being an exporter of high technology and dual-use materials, Mexico has been making efforts to strengthen its controls of transfers of sensitive products which could be used illicitly in the manufacture of these kinds of weapon. These efforts led to Mexico's admission to the Australia Group on 12 August.

Mexico does not have, and never has had, chemical weapons; it does not manufacture them, and never has done. Mexico maintains an active, constant, committed position in favour of general, complete disarmament, since that is the only sure way of achieving international security. For that reason, we think that all weapons of indiscriminate effect and mass destruction must be abolished and eliminated.

Mr. Chairman, I should be obliged if this statement could be distributed as an official document of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

Many thanks.

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