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**ALGERIA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ALGERIA  
AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson,

Allow me to begin by congratulating you, on behalf of the Algerian delegation, on your election as Chairperson of this Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. Your widely recognised professional and personal qualities will, without a doubt, contribute greatly to the success of our work. Rest assured that you have the full support of my delegation.

I should also like to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing Chairperson of the Conference, Ambassador Sa'ad Abdel Majeed Ibrahim Al Ali of Iraq, whose qualities are well known to us all, for the manner in which he conducted our deliberations during the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Our thanks and appreciation also go to the Director-General of the Organisation, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for the excellent work he is conducting.

Algeria fully aligns itself with the statements made by his Excellency Mr Alireza Jahangiri, the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, and by His Excellency Mr Vusi Bruce Koloane, the Ambassador of South Africa, on behalf of the African Group.

We are gathered here once again for the annual Conference of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. This is a good opportunity for my delegation to reiterate Algeria's commitment to this multilateral treaty, whose primary objective is the destruction of chemical weapons.

Until such time as all chemical weapons have been destroyed, these weapons will continue to threaten international peace and security.

This objective, which we must attain, will be an important milestone on the path towards a world free of weapons of mass destruction, something we all aspire to achieve.

In this connection, my country regrets that the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 was not met. We therefore strongly encourage all possessor States to destroy their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles as soon as possible, in accordance with the relevant decisions taken by the OPCW bodies.



In this context, we note the revised destruction plan submitted by the Russian Federation.

Throughout this year, and following Syria's accession to the OPCW, our work essentially focused on the implementation of the Executive Council's decision of 27 September 2013 relating to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons, which was followed by United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

We can take pride in having completed this complex operation within the established timeframes. Indeed, for the first time in the history of the OPCW, chemical weapons were transferred outside of a country mired in a high-intensity conflict.

This achievement is a credit to all Member States of the Organisation and to the Technical Secretariat.

In this regard, my country wishes to thank the countries that provided a wide range of support to this operation, and wishes to pay tribute to the Technical Secretariat staff, under the leadership of the Director-General, for the dedication they have demonstrated. We should also like to thank Ms Sigrid Kaag, Head of the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, for her positive contribution to the completion of this operation.

For their part, the Syrian authorities made considerable efforts to bring this operation to a successful conclusion, in a very challenging security environment, and for this we congratulate them.

Moreover, we are pleased to note the significant progress in the operation to destroy Syrian chemical weapons, as the rate of destruction is now close to 98%.

With regard to the issue of the destruction of chemical weapons production facilities, we welcome the fact that a consensual solution has been found. Concerning the question of the initial declaration, my delegation encourages the continuation of discussions between the Syrian authorities and the Technical Secretariat in order to clarify this document.

We hope that all outstanding issues will be resolved definitively so that this dossier may be brought to a close.

In this context, my delegation welcomes the Director-General's appointment of Ambassador José Artur Medeiros, who will be responsible for following up on all of these matters. We know Ambassador Medeiros well and are convinced that his wealth of professional experience and human qualities will contribute greatly to resolving all of these issues.

On 29 April, the Director-General of the Organisation announced the creation of a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the alleged use of toxic chemicals in Syria.

My delegation wishes to underscore that Algeria strongly condemns any use of chemical weapons or chemicals for hostile purposes, by anyone, and under any circumstances.

Following the publication of two reports by the Fact-Finding Mission, we indicated that the Mission should continue its work to provide tangible and incontrovertible evidence, while

noting that these allegations must be dealt with in full conformity with the provisions of the Convention and the technical character of the OPCW.

To fully attain its objectives, the Chemical Weapons Convention must become universal. For this, we must spare no effort to encourage States remaining outside the Convention to join it without delay or condition.

A Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction is also an objective to be achieved.

My delegation should now like to take this opportunity to point out certain provisions of the Convention which, in our view, warrant greater attention on our part.

Article X of the Convention on assistance and protection is of particular importance. The entire scope and purpose of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons can be found in this one very article.

The OPCW must have the means to effectively intervene in cases of chemical weapons attacks.

Likewise, it must be able to help States Parties to develop their means of protection against any attack of this kind. We commend the Technical Secretariat for the programmes it has set up in this regard, and hope that the ongoing Article X facilitations will produce tangible results that will give extra momentum to assistance and protection-related activities, which are of a paramount concern to the States Parties.

Article XI also plays a critical role in the architecture of the Convention. My delegation is convinced that we can find consensual measures that will enable us to give full effect to this article for the benefit of all States Parties.

Algeria should like to repeat here its principled position that the provisions of the Convention must be applied in such a way as to facilitate international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, and to thereby promote the economic and technological development of countries.

In this same framework, my delegation should like to thank the Director-General for the implementation of the Programme for Africa, and asks that it be evaluated regularly to ensure that it specifically addresses the needs that have been expressed.

In our view, all of the articles of the Convention complement and reinforce one another, and this includes Article VII on national legislation.

With regard to the recurring issue of the rehiring of inspectors, my delegation aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group, noting that capacity building and knowledge transfer must be taken into account. It is very important for the Technical Secretariat to take all measures necessary to ensure the replacement of inspectors. It is equally important that these inspectors be appointed with due regard to equitable geographical representation.

I should like to conclude my statement by congratulating the two recipients of the OPCW award, Dr Robert Matthews of Australia and the Finnish institute VERIFIN. My delegation

wishes to acknowledge the contributions of both recipients to promote the peaceful use of chemistry.

This award, which was established after the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the OPCW last year, is a great distinction, because it falls within the framework of the education-related activities to which we must attach great importance. It will no doubt give greater visibility to the OPCW.

Madam Chairperson, in conclusion, I would request that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Conference.

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