



## **Joint Communiqué of the Republic of South Sudan and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**

ALGIERS, Algeria, 3 October 2023

The Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of South Sudan, Hon. James Pitia Morgan and the Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), Ambassador Fernando Arias, met today in the margins of the OPCW CHEMEX Africa Exercise in Algiers, Algeria.

The Director-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs agreed on the importance of upholding and strengthening the global norm against chemical weapons and discussed South Sudan's progress toward accession to the Convention.

With 193 States Parties, the Chemical Weapons Convention is nearly universal, and both sides believed that South Sudan should join the Convention at the earliest opportunity.

The Minister reiterated South Sudan's commitment to the objective of a world free of chemical weapons and underlined that while South Sudan was a young, developing State with many priorities before it, it was also a responsible member of the international community and accession to the Chemical Weapons Convention at an early stage remained a priority.

The Director-General briefed the Minister on the ongoing work of the OPCW in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons, including the wide range of international cooperation programmes offered by the Organisation, namely assistance and protection related to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

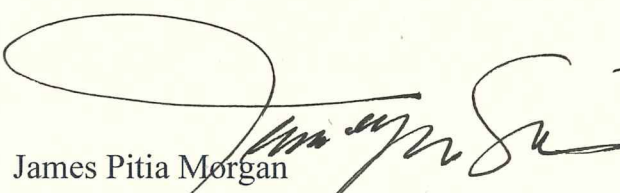
The Director-General further emphasised that universal adherence to the Convention remained a top priority for the OPCW and its Member States and expressed his appreciation for the constructive dialogue between the two sides.

He particularly welcomed and commended South Sudan's ambition to accede to the Convention at an early stage and reassured the Minister of the Technical Secretariat's readiness to provide any support South Sudan may require in this endeavour.

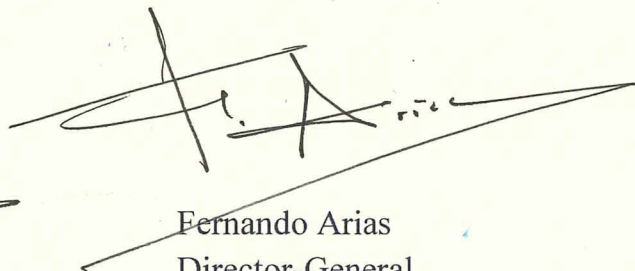
The Director-General and the Minister of Foreign Affairs agreed to work together to complete the accession process as soon as possible.

The Minister and the Director-General also discussed broader issues related to global arms control, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, and the regional security situation.

Done in Algiers, Algeria, on this day Tuesday, 3 October 2023.



James Pitia Morgan  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
and International Cooperation  
South Sudan



Fernando Arias  
Director-General  
OPCW