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Statement by Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, during the 107th Session of the Executive Council
[The Hague, 8-11 October 2024]

Agenda item 13.3: Geographical representation

Mr. Chairperson, Mr. Director General, Madam Deputy Director General, distinguished representatives, delegates:

Mexico acknowledges the work carried out by the delegation of Chile during its presidency of the Open-Ended Working Group on Geographical Representation and its recent efforts to bring this matter, which is of interest to the entire membership, to the agenda of our discussions.

Mr. Chairperson, Mexico also recognizes the actions taken by the Director General to promote not only gender equity within the Organization but also greater geographical representation at various levels of its structure.

We are also closely following the implementation of the action plan prepared by the Technical Secretariat to advance this issue, and we look forward with optimism to its report to learn about the progress made since the last Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation acknowledges that actions to correct imbalances in geographical representation do not solely depend on the measures undertaken by the Technical Secretariat in this area, but also on those implemented by the States Parties.

Aware of this, Mexico has taken on its role responsibly and sought solutions to help address this imbalance. For example, we have worked with the Technical Secretariat to establish a Diploma Program between the OPCW and the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), which will raise awareness, among potential future candidates, of the important work our Organization carries out. We hope that the first cohort of this diploma program will begin their training in the first quarter of 2025, thanks in large part to the generous contributions of various States Parties.

This model will benefit not only GRULAC but also other regions that are establishing cooperation mechanisms with UNAM to set up similar diploma programs.

Domestically, Mexico has implemented actions to expand the dissemination of available vacancies at the OPCW among a larger pool of interested individuals. In this regard, in addition to the dissemination efforts carried out by the Mexican National Authority with various Executive Branch agencies, the Directorate General for Liaison with Civil Society Organizations, under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is now circulating the vacancies among multiple civil society organizations,

academia, and Mexican industry. We are aware that the number of Mexican candidates will not increase overnight, but we are confident that we are moving in the right direction.

We hope that these actions can be adopted as best practices by other States Parties interested in increasing their participation within the Organization's structure.

I would appreciate it if this statement could be considered a public and official document of this meeting and published on the Catalyst platform and the official OPCW website.