

**-Courtesy translation-**

**Statement by Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons during the 107th Session of the Executive Council.**

**(The Hague, October 8, 2024).**

Mr. President, Mr. Director-General, Madam Deputy Director-General, distinguished representatives, delegates,

Mexico wishes the presidency of this Council a successful steering of the work of its one hundred and seventh session.

Mexico has taken note with great interest of the statement made by the Director-General, which gives an account of the challenges, as well as the opportunities on which we must focus our attention in order to achieve the purpose of the Convention.

Mexico is also grateful to the Vice-Presidents of the Council, as well as to the various facilitators, for the work they have done to make progress in the fulfilment of the regular and outstanding issues on the Executive Board's agenda.

My country reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons. Its use anywhere, at any time, by anyone, in any circumstance is unacceptable and constitutes a violation of international law, including international humanitarian law and could constitute a war crime.

Mexico will continue to advocate for the unrestricted application of international law regarding the use of chemical weapons.

Mexico once again calls on States Parties that are currently engaged in armed conflicts to adhere to their international commitments and to

comply, without any reservations, with their obligations and the prohibitions clearly established in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Mexico remains concerned about allegations related to the use of riot control agents and other substances prohibited by the Convention, particularly in Ukraine. We request the Technical Secretariat to continue to closely monitor the situation and to proceed, when the situation warrants it, in accordance with the relevant articles of the Convention.

For more than a decade, the Organization's technical teams have been working to clarify all outstanding issues relating to the initial and subsequent declarations submitted by the Syrian Arab Republic, as well as to clarify allegations related to the use of chemical weapons on its territory and to identify the perpetrators.

Mr. President, my delegation appreciates the professionalism, impartiality and commitment shown by the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission and the Investigation and Identification Team in carrying out their mandates.

Mexico once again calls on the Syrian Arab Republic to comply with its obligations, with the decisions of the policy-making organs and the corresponding resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Mexico is concerned that a small group of states continue to question the mandate of the Investigation and Identification Team when what should concern us all is that crimes related to the documented use of chemical weapons continue to go unpunished, which is a direct affront to the international community.

Mexico has noted with interest the progress made in the destruction of old chemical weapons and, in particular, of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in Chinese territory.

Mexico had the opportunity to be part of the Executive Council delegation that recently visited the abandoned chemical weapons excavation and recovery site in Mudanjiang and the Haerbaling destruction facility.

In both places we were able to observe first-hand the multiple challenges faced by the teams of China and Japan to recover and destroy abandoned chemical weapons, but perhaps the most relevant aspect, was the high degree of cooperation that we were able to witness between both countries. Mexico hopes that they will be able to complete the destruction plan as soon as possible, to completely rid the world of chemical weapons.

My delegation will continue to work with the Technical Secretariat and the membership to collaborate on everything that contributes to improve the verification regime for the chemical industry. In that regard, we thank Germany, the United States and France for their efforts in this area.

Mr. President, Mexico recognizes the work that has been carried out by the Open-ended Working Group on Terrorism under the leadership of Ambassador Vuzi Vuzi Mandosela and is ready to participate in the second tabletop exercise.

Mexico also reiterates its commitment to work with the Secretariat and the States Parties of our region to carry out a successful Chemex GRULAC exercise.

My delegation welcomes the inclusion of a new item in the Council's agenda to discuss emerging technologies. This is a very important issue on which we need to move forward proactively to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with the implementation of the Convention. We hope that the Global Conference on Artificial Intelligence that will take place in Morocco this month will contribute by showing us the way forward and

we welcome the establishment of a Temporary Working Group on Artificial Intelligence.

Mexico is optimistic about the incorporation of spaces for dialogue to improve engagement with civil society organizations and to promote geographical representation in the Organization's structure.

Finally, Mexico appreciates the efforts made by the membership and the Technical Secretariat to consolidate actions in favor of gender equity. We are pleased to see that the number of women participating in training courses has grown significantly, and we urge States parties to continue to promote inclusiveness and the nomination of more women candidates.

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

Thank you.

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