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PERU

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ALLAN WAGNER PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF PERU TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF
THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Peru, I would like to congratulate you on your election to the Chair of this Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention; allow me to offer you our support and cooperation. We would, moreover, like to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Peter Goosen, for his outstanding work as Chairman of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation would also like to thank the Ambassador of India, Mrs Bhaswati Mukherjee, for her excellent leadership in the Chair of the Executive Council and the Ambassador of Ukraine, Dr Olexandr Horin, for the outstanding work he is doing at the head of the Council.

My delegation supports the statement of the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, delivered by our colleague the Ambassador of Iran.

The delegation of Peru considers the OPCW to be a highly successful agency, given the remarkable progress made in the destruction of the chemical weapons arsenals. In this context, my delegation congratulates the OPCW on having recently been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, which is in due recognition for an organisation that is struggling tirelessly to achieve a world free from chemical weapons.

Moreover, it is important to stress that the Nobel Peace Prize and Syria's recent adherence to the Convention must be an incentive to the OPCW and the States Parties to take advantage of this unique moment to redouble their efforts to achieve the universality of the Convention, thus making a greater contribution to achieving and maintaining international peace and security.

Therefore, we appeal to those countries which have not yet done so to adhere to the Chemical Weapons Convention at the earliest date.

Peru welcomed the decisions on the destruction of the Syrian chemicals weapons adopted by the Executive Council on 27 September and 15 November, because it considers them an



important step towards sparing the Syrian people even greater suffering, making progress towards a solution to the internal problems of that country, and contributing to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The delegation of Peru wants to stress that the decisions on the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons were adopted by consensus, which implies intense consultations and a joint effort on the part of all delegations. Thus, the rule of consensus, which our Organisation has adopted as its preferred method of decision-making, has been enriched, and the capacity of the Member States to work together has been strengthened.

Moreover, I want to stress that Peru supports our Director-General in the important responsibilities which the decisions adopted entrust him with, and stands ready to continue with the efforts aimed at full implementation of those decisions.

It is very important to inject a major stimulus into the area of cooperation, one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention, to help boost the chemical industry and trade among all the Member States, without discrimination and in safe conditions.

This also implies the development of other forms of cooperation among States, for instance, to respond to possible chemical weapon attacks by non-States Parties.

In the field of assistance and protection, on 5 December 2011 Peru concluded an agreement with the OPCW on offering assistance. Its purpose is to offer cooperation to States Parties, under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention when requested by the Technical Secretariat. The agreement came into force recently, on 30 October.

It is important to stress that the agreement between Peru and the OPCW, the first of its kind in Latin America, also makes a contribution to the development (which Peru wants to stimulate) of regional and sub-regional assistance systems to deal with emergencies.

The delegation of Peru wants to highlight the extraordinary work which Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü has been doing, over the last four years, as Director-General of the OPCW. During this period, there were difficult times, which his constructive, constant support and leadership have brought us through. Moreover, I should also like to stress Peru's firm support for Ambassador Üzümcü's re-election for another four-year period.

In conclusion, I should also like to repeat my country's commitment to strengthening and consolidating the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as an effective tool against the use and re-emergence of these weapons. This will certainly contribute to gaining the objective of a world free from chemical weapons in which the re-emergence of these weapons is excluded, and in which international cooperation is fully guaranteed.

I would be obliged if this statement is incorporated into the official documents of this Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Many thanks.