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***Mexico: Statement by H.E. Ambassador Carmen Moreno Toscano
Permanent Representative of the United Mexican States to the OPCW
at the 108th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item No. 5,
General Debate.***

(The Hague, March 4, 2025).

Mr. President, Mr. Director General, Ms. Deputy Director General, distinguished representatives, delegates:

Mexico wishes the presidency of this Council a successful leadership of its one hundred eighth session.

We have taken note with great interest of the Director General's statement, especially regarding the challenges, both human and material, that the Organization will have to face in order to conclude the chemical weapons file of the Syrian Arab Republic.

We recognize the effort and dedication of the Technical Secretariat to fulfill its mandate during a particularly complex period. True to its multilateral vocation and principles of foreign policy, Mexico will actively and proactively contribute to this task.

Mr. President,

In a few months, we will celebrate the centenary of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, a fundamental milestone in the fight against the use of chemical weapons, which marked a global commitment to peace and the protection of humanitarian principles. This groundbreaking agreement not only reflects the determination of the international community to condemn and prohibit chemical warfare but also established the foundations for the Chemical Weapons Convention, which has fulfilled the objective of completely eliminating these dangerous arsenals.

Over the course of a century, both instruments have been pillars in promoting disarmament and security, reminding us that the well-being of future generations depends on our ability to learn from history and act collectively in favor of a world free from the threat of chemical weapons.

It is concerning that several documented incidents regarding the use of chemical weapons against individuals and civilian populations remain

unanswered and in impunity. Furthermore, reports documenting multiple cases in which riot control agents have been used as weapons of war in Ukraine continue to raise concerns, constituting a clear violation of the Convention.

In this regard, Mexico reiterates its condemnation, in the strongest possible terms, of the use of chemical weapons. We will continue to advocate for the unrestricted application of international law regarding the use of chemical weapons.

Mexico has taken note with interest of the progress made during the intersessional period to destroy old chemical weapons. We thank Germany for the invitation to visit the destruction facilities at Dethlinger Teich in the coming days.

Likewise, we note the advances recorded in the destruction plan for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in Chinese territory. We hope that cooperation between both will contribute to completing the destruction program by the agreed dates, to completely rid the world of chemical weapons.

My delegation thanks the delegations of China, France, and the United States for the proposals they have presented, in the facilitation led by Germany, to improve the verification regime for the chemical industry.

Mr. President, chemical terrorism is undoubtedly one of our main concerns. This is why Mexico recognizes the importance of continuing to work within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, which has been skillfully led so far by Ambassador Vuzi Vuzi Mandosela. We hope that new table-top exercises can be carried out to improve the coordination and capabilities of our regional experts.

Mexico reaffirms its commitment to work with the Secretariat and the Member States of our region to carry out a successful Chemex GRULAC exercise. We look forward to the opening of the call and invite the Member States from other regions to support this important initiative.

The Mexican delegation has taken note with interest of the document containing the conclusions of the Global Conference in Rabat on the Role of Artificial Intelligence in Advancing the Implementation of the Convention, particularly the proposals for what the next steps should be, including the possible adaptation of the verification regime to ensure it remains effective in light of advancements in emerging technologies.

In terms of governance, we thank the Council members for the support received during the facilitation sessions conducted by New Zealand and my delegation, as well as those who preceded us in this long process, to grant the Director-General the necessary authority to rehire former staff members who have the experience and credentials needed to support the mission of the OPCW during a particularly complex period arising from the situation in Syria. We invite the membership to positively consider the draft decision that will be submitted for the Council's consideration.

Likewise, Mexico thanks the Presidency of the Council for the note containing the roadmap for the selection of the next Director General. We will support this process to ensure that consensus is achieved once more in the selection process.

Lastly, in line with its feminist foreign policy, Mexico appreciates the efforts made by the membership and the Technical Secretariat to continue promoting gender equality in a transversal manner within the Organization.

Thank you very much

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