



**OPCW**

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**PAKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SIXTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Let me begin by commending you for the excellent manner in which you have led the work of the Executive Council since taking over the Chair earlier this year. You have indeed helped us achieve substantial progress on a number of important issues.

We would also like to commend the Director-General for his leadership and focused efforts to enable the Organisation to effectively address the key challenges before us while steering it to a more secure future—a future that would have no chemical weapons but abundant peaceful uses of chemistry. In the same context, we extend to him and his entire team my delegation's appreciation for organising the OPCW's conference on international cooperation and chemical safety and security. We wish you, Mr Director-General, every success for your endeavours in the years ahead.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

We would like to offer our views on some important issues on Council's agenda.

But before that, allow me to use this opportunity to welcome the report of the Advisory Panel on the future priorities of the OPCW. The report comprehensively deals with the key aspects of the implementation of the Convention. It rightly assigns priority to finishing the unfinished task of eliminating all chemical weapons, and in parallel, suggests a way forward that could keep this valued Organisation relevant in the coming years. We note that the Panel's recommendations seek to strike a balance in the future priorities of the Organisation between regulatory aspects (industry verification, national implementation) and international cooperation in chemistry. It also recommends, and we think rightly so, retention of the capacity to prevent re-emergence of chemical weapons (through stronger industry verification regime) and prevention of the possible use of toxic chemicals for hostile purpose (by strengthening the safety and security of chemical plants and preventing access to toxic chemicals by terrorists). Our overall assessment is that the Panel has given us a balanced report which can be a useful guide for the State Parties in chalking out the future priorities of



the OPCW. And in this regard also, Mr Director-General, we thank you for your foresight and initiative in setting up this panel and holding the retreat last month for in-depth discussion in an open and transparent manner. We look forward to receiving the summary of discussions held.

Mr Chairman, the Council is currently seized with the all-important issue of the final extended deadline, on which you have been admirably steering our work to finding a consensus solution, a solution that we believe must be in line with the framework of the Convention. In the last few months, we all have witnessed your untiring efforts to find a Convention-compliant, consensus-based solution. We believe this is the right approach; and we will continue to fully support your efforts.

We support the proposed budget for 2012. We welcome the Director-General's efforts to make savings wherever possible as well as the net reduction in the annual assessed contributions of States Parties. In principle, we believe that the Organisation should be provided sufficient financial and human resources to fulfil its mandate as envisaged in the Convention.

It is well known that my delegation attaches high importance to strengthening international cooperation and assistance in the field of chemistry. We believe the allocation made in the budget for international cooperation fully respects the spirit of the Convention and must be endorsed by all. We also support the ongoing consultations on Article XI and hope that States Parties will soon reach a decision on an agreed framework to facilitate full implementation of this Article.

On the issue of tenure policy, we reiterate our support to giving necessary flexibility to the Director-General to extend tenures beyond seven years, provided this authority is exercised in exceptional cases, is limited to the destruction and verification related activities and does not alter the basic nature of the OPCW as a non-career organisation.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm to this Council that my government attaches utmost importance to the effective implementation of the Convention. Earlier this year we had successfully hosted the Regional Workshop on Electronic Declarations for National Authorities (EDNA) of Asia. And now in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, we will be organising next week an International Basic Course on Assistance and Protection against chemical weapons (10 through 14 October in Islamabad), for which all the preparations have been made.

I would conclude by assuring the Council of our full cooperation and support.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Sixty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council.