



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Sixth Session  
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.61  
29 November 2021  
ENGLISH only

**INDONESIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MAYERFAS  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to join other delegations in extending our earnest felicitations to Ambassador Bård Ivar Svendsen of Norway as Chairperson of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Our delegation assures you of our full support and contribution towards a successful conclusion of this body.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to Director-General Fernando Arias, in delivering the report and likewise, commends him and the Technical Secretariat for their steadfast commitment and continuous work under these challenging times. I also seize this distinct opportunity to extend our appreciation to Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, who has led us in his capacity as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement of Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

As we enter the second year of pandemic, the Indonesian delegation would like to commend the perseverance of the General Committee and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for the convening of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties under strict health protocol and at the same time, fulfilling the mandate of Article VIII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

My delegation further wishes to underline, again, the balance among the pillars of the Convention. The destruction of chemical weapons should remain the main priority. In spite of the fact that the Convention is one of the most successful multilateral instruments in the area of disarmament and non-proliferation, threat towards international peace and security remains visible.



Indonesia condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons, or the use of toxic chemicals as weapons, by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances or for whatever reasons. It is imperative to continue and enhance appropriate and credible responses as well as cooperation by the OPCW and its States Parties.

Indonesia believes that the mere assurance for this world to be free from chemical weapons is not only further enlargement of membership towards universality, but it reminds us of the importance that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons under strict verification should continue to be accorded top priority. It also reminds us that further efforts could be undertaken by other possessor States Parties to the Convention to achieve their complete destruction in the most practicable way possible under verification by the OPCW.

Indonesia took note of the near completion status of the declared prohibitive scheduled chemicals under the Convention. We firmly believe that the shared interest of all States Parties and strict verification mechanism by the OPCW are essential in achieving the final objective of the Convention. Indonesia urges the remaining possessor States to fulfil their obligation in destroying the remaining declared scheduled chemicals as well as the abandoned chemical weapons (ACWs) before the agreed deadlines.

The effective verification is a necessity for attaining non-proliferation and confidence building. While we took note that the effectiveness of the Convention as being the sole disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the highest rate of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) destruction progress which contributes to the maintenance of peace and security, Indonesia calls for the credible continuation of the success as the role model for other disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD regimes.

Indonesia reiterates its firm commitment on the achievement of complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all chemical weapons in line with the Convention and welcomes the resumption of the OPCW inspection activities, under the Article VI of the Convention. Our delegations call for the Technical Secretariat to continue its verification and inspection mandates without compromising its credibility even in the midst of limited mobility in view of the pandemic.

Further, Indonesia strongly believes that strengthening international cooperation and assistance as well as peaceful uses of chemistry, are among the foremost elements of the Convention and essential features for attaining non-proliferation and confidence building.

Indonesia stands ready to continue working with the Technical Secretariat and other States Parties to enhance regional capacities as well as programmes in the implementation of the Convention, including agreed measures in strengthening the implementation of Article XI on Economic and Technological Activities. Along this line, Indonesia also highly commends the approaches taken by the Technical Secretariat in continuing its capacity building programmes virtually given the height of the pandemic.

My delegation believes that the success of promoting chemical safety and security should also depend on the support of other stakeholders. Within this purview, Indonesia calls for an increase of engagement with the chemical industries to promote global chemical trade and to strengthen the mechanism for consultation and cooperation in closing down technological gaps among States Parties.

Mr Chairperson, much of the deliberations and concerns address the issue of the Syrian Arab Republic and my delegation has taken note on the efforts and progress made on the elimination and destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. Indonesia underscores the importance of continuous cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic and the use of good faith and constructive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues.

Indonesia took note of the two reports of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the alleged chemical incidents in Ltamenah on 24 and 30 March 2017 and in Saraqib on 4 February 2018. Whilst noting IIT being mandated as a non-judicial investigative body, compliance issues should be settled under the relevant policy-making organs in the OPCW based on the Convention. Further, Indonesia reiterates its views that fact-finding activities and questions of compliance should be conducted in an impartial, factual manner and free from any kind of politicisation by appropriate measures according to the Convention.

In this regard, my delegation urges this body to support the constructive consultation process between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) in addressing the verification issues without delay.

We applaud Director-General Fernando Arias for his leadership, and his able staff for their keen sense of integrity and professionalism and for their perseverance in their mission which should be commended. Indonesia joins other distinguished delegations in supporting the draft decision for the renewal of appointment of the current Director-General H.E. Mr Fernando Arias.

On the OPCW Draft Programme and Budget for 2022-2023, Indonesia welcomes the biennial format to ensure that the work of the Technical Secretariat contributes to the achievement of defined results and optimise the use of resources. In line with this, Indonesia took note that the OPCW has departed from the zero-nominal growth, due to the inflation and United Nations Scale of Assessment, per 31 December 2021.

In light of this development, my delegation is of the view that the Technical Secretariat could enhance its strategy in anticipating and adapting to the new business process against the COVID-19 pandemic; such strategies as efforts to implement the pillars of the Convention in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner. In this regard, Indonesia supports the continuing initiatives of the OPCW in the cybersecurity capacity in ensuring the safety of digitalised business process under the current pandemic situation, as well as in the enhancement of knowledge management.

While we draw the attention for an increase of geographical representation at the Technical Secretariat, we concurrently commend the OPCW for its continued efforts in promoting gender parity at the professional/technical level and also encourage that the application of equitable geographical representation could be achieved as well. We would like to see an increase in the geographical representation of the staffs of the Technical Secretariat as mandated under the Article VIII paragraph 44, particularly for talents from developing countries to gain wider exposure in the field of their expertise.

It is our belief that the full implementation of the Convention can only be attained when all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, have the understanding on the objective and purpose of the Convention. Civil society serves as our valuable partners as we step forward and share a common ideal to invest in a shared future.

My delegation takes pleasure in noting the construction of the new OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre), which shall contribute to the development and maintenance of capabilities in States Parties and remain fit for purpose ahead of future threats. Indonesia is one of the States Parties to join in the contribution to the establishment of the ChemTech Centre and looks forward to the completion of its construction.

Mr. Chairperson, Indonesia calls for dialogue and consensus to be in the forefront of our work. Differences of views and interests are inevitable in multilateralism. Indonesia firmly believes that a maximum effort for a broad consensus is the way to go forward so we can all forge ahead together. We look forward that the issues to be presented and deliberated at the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties will reach a broad consensus and we wish to assure this esteemed body of my delegation's full support and readiness to engage constructively with all States Parties and to do its utmost to make this session of the conference a success.

Finally, I request that this statement, be issued as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.

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