

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Please be assured of the full cooperation of my delegation for a successful outcome of the Conference.

I also wish to express my delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Abuelgasim Abdelwahid Shiekh Idris of Sudan for the efficient and competent manner in which he presided over the last session of the Conference.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered read by the Permanent Representative of Cuba Ambassador Oscar de los Reyes Ramos on behalf of the Members of the Non-aligned Movement and China.

The Second Review Conference meeting in April this year has described the CWC as setting 'new standards for global disarmament and non-proliferation through verification in a non-discriminatory and multilateral manner'. This statement affirms the unique character of the CWC as a disarmament instrument that is based on principles of non-discrimination. It also clearly underscores the legitimacy of non-proliferation under conditions free from selectivity or double standards.

Verification is a sine qua non for the success of disarmament and non-proliferation. Without verification, disarmament and non-proliferation initiatives offer few benefits.

The final deadline for the complete destruction of chemical weapons expires in just over three years from now. Yet more than half the total stockpile remains in tact. Any failure to meet the final deadline in April 2012 will deal a moral blow to the Convention. It will promote an impression that the CWC too suffers from different standards regarding compliance with solemn obligations. Clearly more should have been done to prevent the situation that presently confronts the OPCW.

We urge the possessor states to redouble their efforts to comply with their obligations in order to prevent erosion in the moral authority of the Convention. Tangible progress also needs to be made in destroying abandoned chemical weapons.

We express our satisfaction that a second State Party has completed its destruction programme this year.

Mr. Chairman,

The fundamental legal and political equity inherent in the Convention and the organisational support provided by the OPCW Secretariat have played a major role in the unprecedented growth in CWC's membership. We welcome Congo, Guinea Bissau as States Parties to the Convention and also appreciate the decision by Lebanon to join the Convention.

The CWC's appeal lies in the undeniable benefits it can bring both from a security perspective, regional and global, as well as its under-utilised potential to bring economic and technological benefits to the developing countries which constitute a majority of OPCW's membership.

We believe that attaining the universality of the Convention is, therefore, an important objective. It will strengthen security in regions where universality has remained elusive.

We also need to pay greater attention to the unfinished business relating to progress in the implementation of Article XI on economic and technological development. At the time the Convention was adopted in the Conference on Disarmament, undertakings were offered with evident sincerity for the removal of cartel-based restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes.

No progress has been made in this area despite the passage of 11 years since the Convention entered into force. Surely this matter must be counted as one of the key challenges the Organisation will have to deal with for its long term viability and confidence.

Pakistan supports the proposal for a workshop dedicated to the implementation of Article XI. We believe that this event can generate fresh thinking and new ideas on how best to realize the aims of this article while taking into account the current international conditions. Such deliberations could also lead to the adoption of an Action Plan along the lines of successful plans in the area of universality and national implementation.

Progress on the key goals of Article XI must be separated from the distinct area of national implementation where international cooperation has indeed proved to be fruitful.

Pakistan welcomes the progress made by States Parties in the implementation of their Article VII obligations.

We take our obligations for national implementation seriously and have invested considerable resources in creating an effective National Authority, establishing legislation covering not just the CWC but other weapons of mass destruction, setting-up of an Export Control Authority and a communications network called the Wide Area Network that facilitates CWC implementation.

We are prepared to share our experience in setting up this network both with the Secretariat as well as interested States Parties. Pakistan is also prepared to host a workshop on Advanced Training for National Authorities in 2010. We have also initiated consultations for the holding of a South Asian sub-regional workshop for sharing of CWC implementation experiences between countries in the region.

At the OPCW we will continue to support programmes that help other States Parties in making progress on their Article VII requirements. A cooperative approach has proven to be the best option and should be maintained.

Similarly, in the context of Article X on Assistance and Protection, we welcome the substantive contribution that the OPCW has made as reflected in the Report on Article X by the Director-General. However, there is scope for additional efforts by the Technical Secretariat and States Parties in order to achieve and maintain a high level of readiness of the OPCW.

We also hope that the next major exercise on assistance and protection will be more inclusive than has been the case with the past exercises that benefited a limited number of countries.

Mr Chairman,

This Conference is required to approve the Programme and Budget for the OPCW for 2009. We commend the Secretariat for a generally balanced, zero-nominal growth draft budget.

With regard to the proposal for increases in OCPF inspections that has proved to be contentious, we reiterate our position that prior understandings in dedicated consultations should be reached before such proposals are reflected in the budget. Otherwise budgetary negotiations will become increasingly difficult to conclude as is the case this year.

We also believe that a report by the Secretariat on improvements that have come about as a result of the application of the modified site selection methodology for OCPFs can provide valuable inputs to the future consideration of optimum levels of inspections in this category of chemical plants, keeping in view the hierarchy of risks associated with different categories of facilities.

Mr. Chairman,

It is entirely legitimate to anticipate the challenges that the Convention will face in the future on account of fast-paced developments in the chemical industry as well as science and technology. But this must be done in a balanced manner. At the Second Review Conference my delegation had stated that historically the influence of advanced military technologies has often led to a search for exploiting real or perceived loopholes in legal instruments in order to circumvent their prohibitions and that it would be unfortunate if the CWC were to be subjected to similar treatment. Unfortunately the important question of incapacitating agents was suppressed during the Second Review Conference and we feel that with inordinate focus on such issues as OCPF inspections some of the very real challenges to the Convention might get sidelined.

It is our hope that all pertinent issues will be fully discussed and debated under the mechanisms identified by the Second Review Conference for creating greater coherence between the Scientific Advisory Board and the policy organs of the OPCW.

On its part, Pakistan remains fully committed to the success of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the work of the OPCW.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.