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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR FAUZIAH MOHAMAD TAIB
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SIXTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

1. Malaysia aligns itself to the statement made by the distinguished representative of Cuba on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. My delegation would also like to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive opening remarks, which we are assured will help steer our deliberations in the right direction in the next few days.

Mr Chairperson,

2. As I listened to the eloquent speakers before me, I was suddenly reminded of a 1980s song, “The Final Countdown”. The title of the song seems to encapsulate very well our situation here at the OPCW as we count down to the final destruction deadline of 29 April 2012. The deadline is significant. It symbolises our commitment to the cause. We set the deadline, and now the countdown has begun. Therefore, this session of the Executive Council must focus on the issue of this final countdown, and whether it is as final as it seems to me.
3. We have 10 months. But 10 months is not a long time. Based on the visits to destruction facilities, coupled by the information given by possessor States, although not explicitly—there is a real likelihood of non-compliance. In fact, the silence is so loud. And if there will be non-compliance, then we should know now, so that the Executive Council may plan its next steps. What kind of monitoring organisation would we be if we were not aware that there are some of our members who have fallen off the bandwagon, and left by the wayside?
4. In my statement a few months ago, welcoming you to the Chair, I expressed my delegations’ pledge to support you in your task. Today, I reiterate that pledge, and give over my delegation’s full support to you to lead the way in coming up with an acceptable line of action. I know you will not fail us in this for it is now patently obvious to us that this deadline will not be met. While we do not doubt the willingness of possessor States, we know that there are extenuating circumstances sometimes beyond our control. But the willingness must be shown, and shown clearly, to still make the commitment to the destruction of chemical weapons a reality.



5. Two decades ago, a number of possessor States got together and embarked on this journey to disarm all chemical weapons. Their intent was noble, and their path was true. Over the years, there were billions of dollars spent on building destruction facilities and providing assistance to other States Parties to destroy their remaining stockpiles. But the promise that we made when we cemented the Convention 18 years ago still remains. A promise was made. And that promise must be kept. It is now time to pay the piper. So whatever the feelings of the population, or the environmental concerns that have now come into play, unless we amend the Convention, we have no choice but to walk the talk.
6. Non-compliance is non-compliance. We cannot say something is round when it actually is square. As responsible members of the Convention, we must already put in place a mechanism to deal with the matter. This is provided for in Article XII of the Convention in which an opportunity is given to redress and remedy any situation that contravenes the provisions of this Convention. In doing so, my delegation is supportive of an action plan that is acceptable, reasonable, and logical, so as to ensure that the remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons are destroyed in a speedy manner and sufficient enough to create confidence within the international community. There have been suggestions of a special review conference to assess the situation beyond 29 April 2012. My delegation does not see the utility of having such a conference when the Executive Council meets four times a year and the Conference of the States Parties meets annually. Such a conference is a waste of good time and resources and without prejudging its outcome, we already know the outcome. It will lead to naming and shaming and finger pointing and when the conference is over, we still cannot guarantee that complete destruction of chemical stockpiles will take place.
7. While the destruction deadline is an important aspect of our *raison d'être* as party of the Convention, there are also other issues in the Convention that we should give importance. When we talk about hierarchy of risk, we must not forget that any production, distribution and use of chemicals can create risk. Our work does not end when all the declared chemical weapons are completely destroyed because there is no assurance that somewhere, in some corner of the earth, chemical weapons cannot be reproduced. After all, we have not reached universality—an effort that we must jointly help to achieve.
8. Talking about universality, my delegation recognises that not all States Parties are of equal standing in terms of economic development. Some of us have progressed so far that our National Authorities are a model to be followed. But almost 50% of States Parties have not put their national legislation in order and some have yet to establish their National Authorities. My delegation feels that the absence of national legislation should not hinder us in this Organisation from reaching the goals set by the Convention. Nor should the lack of national legislation be used as an excuse to wait for a universal agreement to be attained. The world is not perfect, but we do what we can on our part to improve it. Sometimes pride will have to make way for the common good. This is where we work together to achieve a common solution rather than a solution that only fits one and leaves the rest steaming.
9. Personally, as a representative of my country, and as a member of this Executive Council, I am heartened by the fact that so many around this table have shown their willingness to come to the table for a just and equitable solution. We have worked in

good faith together, and we have compromised in good faith with one another. Only we here at the table know how painful and arduous the negotiation process has been. But we do it nonetheless because we know that even though there is no holy grail, no gold medal at the end of this lane, what we achieve through our agreement is worth so much more. We have stretched our own national interests in order to provide a solution—knowing that by doing so, we achieve a higher goal, that of benefiting the whole of mankind. And how can this not be in the national interest after all.

10. So to my colleagues around the table who still have doubts as to the validity of achieving a consensus versus their perceived national interest, I would only say that personal glory could only be achieved by providing a solution, not a stumbling block. THIS is the multilateral way.
11. On capacity building, Malaysia congratulates the Republic of Korea, China and Pakistan for hosting excellent workshops relating to the Assistance and Protection Programme and the electronic declaration tool for National Authority or EDNA version 2.1. The sharing of best practices and lessons learnt from these training programmes can enhance States Parties' understanding of the Convention and its implementation.
12. On our part, we welcome more OPCW training programmes to be conducted in Malaysia. Malaysia has agreed to accept four trainees under the industrial module of the Associate Programme to be conducted this fall. To ensure the effective implementation of Article VII regarding the transfers regime of scheduled chemicals under the Convention, Malaysia will host for the fourth time the Subregional Training Course for Customs Authorities in South and Southeast Asia on Technical Aspects of the Transfers Regime to be held from 26 to 30 September this year.
13. We are so close. The OPCW is so close to successfully fulfilling its ultimate mandate of a world free of chemical weapons. But like any sportsman will tell you, this last home stretch is always the most challenging. We must not falter but neither should we reinvent ourselves. The Convention, as our guide and framework in this matter, is key. The provisions and articles within the Convention itself already provide us with the necessary tools to complete this task. All that remains is the political will to see it through.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. May I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.

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