



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Sixty-Ninth Session  
10 – 13 July 2012

EC-69/NAT.9  
10 July 2012  
ENGLISH only

**MALAYSIA**

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

Madam Chairperson,

1. My delegation is proud to see you assume the chairmanship of this important session of the Council. Given your extensive multilateral skills, particularly in resolving difficult issues, we are confident that you would be able to lead us in reaching a solution that enjoys the absence of strong objections from Member States. Having been one of the negotiators from the floor, I have no doubt that as Chair, you would be able to tread the middle path equally well, understanding full well the dynamics of the various positions of Member States. My delegation stands ready to assist you in your important tasks.
2. As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Malaysia subscribes to the views expressed by the representative of Cuba and would like to take this opportunity to thank Her Excellency Ambassador Zelmys Dominguez Cortina whose chairmanship of this important movement ends during this session. Her tenacity and her patience in getting a consensus NAM agreement have been admirable. My delegation looks forward to welcoming His Excellency Ambassador Kazem Gharib Abadi, the Permanent Representative of Iran as the next NAM chairman. As Malaysia moves forward in steering the global movement of the moderates, we depend on the support of friendly countries from far and wide to help us find a balanced and just solution to the problems confronting us in our efforts to see the destruction and elimination of all chemical weapons.
3. My delegation welcomes the opening remarks of the Director-General and wishes to congratulate his team for the extensive work done in preparing his reports on the status of the implementation of the Convention. Allow me to comment on some of the subitems that he has presented.
4. On the issue of timely submissions of declarations under Article VI of the Convention, my delegation is pleased to see an increasing number of timely submissions made by States Parties to the Convention. However, let me touch upon the issue of the 10 States Parties that have left outstanding declarations for far too long. Fortunately, I have had the wonderful opportunity of serving as ambassador to some of these countries, specifically those that lie in the heart of the Pacific Ocean.



These tiny island States are located in one of the most remote locations on the planet. They have no elaborate port, no daily newspaper, no Internet, and their houses may just be matted roofs with no walls. They may have an airport where the islanders sleep on the runway at night, and where their privileged citizens would have to wait for a weekly flight to New Zealand to get dialysis. With the highest point only four metres above sea level, some of these island States are in danger of disappearing. Given such living conditions that have become their way of life, we should be thankful enough that they have become States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

5. Frankly, Madam Chairperson, what are these States Parties which have so little capacity, compared to a handful of those that are outside the Convention regime and are in a more serious position to produce and use chemical weapons? An Eastern philosopher once said, "Crave for a thing, you will get it. But if you renounce your craving, it will follow you". We should not stop driving the point home that we want the abler nations to become Member States. If this is what we want, then this should be our unchanged and undiluted message, across time.
6. Let me now touch upon the subitem on the content and use of the OPCW data bank on protection. My delegation congratulates the Technical Secretariat for their successful initiation of the project. The data bank still suffers from low data counts with data sources not talking to each other. Some of the data, particularly on contributions and annual reports on protection are not exactly up to date. We believe that the success of this data bank would invariably depend on States Parties themselves who would provide the input timely enough to enable users to study trends and directions and help formulate useful decisions. However, my delegation is nevertheless confident that given time, when the system is fully up and running, many would come around to drink up the data.
7. My delegation would like to commend the Director-General and his team for coming up with a comprehensive Verification Implementation Report for 2011. I was surprised by my ability to read every page of it, which I find an interesting read, full of information, virtually without parallel. My delegation shares the concerns of the Technical Secretariat that its ability to implement its verification responsibilities effectively is continuously hindered by outstanding initial declarations, by late or outstanding annual declarations and by the continued high number of transfer discrepancies. Despite the errors that are to be corrected in this VIR report, my delegation believes that the content is still to be taken seriously.
8. There are times when even obvious things have to be said especially when they have consumed so much of our working hours. During the previous session of the Executive Council, a decision was made to establish an Open-Ended Working Group that will take on the non-envious task of preparing the documents of the Third Review Conference. Since then, six meetings have taken place under the able leadership of Her Excellency Ms Nassima Baghli, the Permanent Representative of Algeria. My delegation remains supportive of this process, which we find open, inclusive and receptive to ideas for improvement. Malaysia will continue to be actively engaged at these meetings but wants to be assured that the outcome of our deliberations will be faithfully reflected in the Third Review Conference document. The OEWG is bound to walk the talk. We do not expect surprises at the very end.

9. On the activities of my National Authorities, I wish to share with you our delight at the successful visit of the Director-General of the OPCW to Kuala Lumpur, in May. Regional participants at the seminar on the Chemical Weapons Convention and chemical safety and security management expressed pleasure at the presence of the Director-General. Malaysia wishes to once again express its gratitude to the governments of Japan and the United States for their contribution at this seminar. In the coming week, 12 participants from Africa will conclude their training on chemical analysis and product development, carried out with the collaboration of the government of Norway and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, in Johor. In addition, two companies, the BASF PETRONAS Chemical and CCM Chemicals based in Malaysia, will host participants for the 2012 Associate Programme that will see the successful collaboration between governments and the private sector.
  
10. In our line of work, we do not have the choice of staying at a place permanently. We are like passing ships in the night and from time to time we see our colleagues come and go. Unfortunately, the time has come for us to bid farewell to some of our colleagues. Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry of Pakistan has been a fair and diligent coordinator for the Asian Group and has been a productive contributor to the works of many sessions of the Council. Ambassador Gregor Koebel of Germany has given his valuable time as facilitator of the Industry Cluster; Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva of Guatemala provided his philosophical touch to our work, and my good neighbour, Ambassador Jean-Marc Hoscheit of Luxembourg has also contributed positively to this Organisation. Not forgetting, Mr Maciej Karasinski of Poland who has done so much for the Article X facilitation is also leaving us. 'Hellos' and 'goodbyes' are a constant in our lives, but as individuals, we learn to bond and to connect. We are never islands, but a chain of connected lands. The disappearance of even one parcel of land will surely be missed.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. May I request this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

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