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MALAYSIA

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

Madam Chairperson,

1. My delegation welcomes you back to the current session of the Executive Council and looks forward to another fruitful and forward-looking session under your able chairmanship. As a member of the Non-Aligned Movement, Malaysia welcomes the chairmanship of His Excellency Ambassador Kazem Gharib Abadi of Iran and supports the statement he has just delivered on behalf of the Movement. My delegation congratulates the Director-General for his opening remarks, which is a reflection of the extensive efforts he and his Technical Secretariat staff have made since the last session of the Executive Council. Allow me to comment on some of the items relating to the status of the implementation of the Convention.
2. In 1997, the world marked a milestone with the coming into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, a Convention that took nearly 30 years from the point of preliminary negotiations until it was submitted as a clean text in 1992. We celebrated because for the first time, the international community was united in its desire to eliminate all forms of chemical weapons.
3. That was 15 years ago. As we celebrate the crystal anniversary of this event, what do we have to show? True, more than 70% of the world's declared chemical stockpile has been destroyed. But we need to set this against the backdrop that all States Parties undertook to destroy ALL chemical stockpiles, and not a percentage. We spoke about this at length at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council in May this year.
4. What other achievements can we boast of? There is the fact that the Convention lays claim to 188 States Parties. But the reality is that only 47% of today's States Parties have complied with their obligations under Article VII to fully implement the Convention. What does this imply? It implies that "anything goes" for the rest of the States Parties that have no laws to regulate the requirements of the Convention. Chemical industries can mushroom without any kind of restrictions, chemical products can come in and out of the country freely, and what is most fearful—chemical weapons can be produced in the said country without the slightest knowledge of the authorities.
5. The fact that all States have custom checkpoints and immigration laws to control their borders, penal codes to control crimes, trade restrictions to protect their industries,



and even laws to curb absolute freedom of the press show that important legislation can be enacted where there is a will. The internal processes should be the same. So, where is the will to adopt legislature to implement the Convention? Not having a chemical industry is hardly an excuse, not when chemicals are the basis of nearly all industries. Those who do not manufacture chemicals inevitably import them, thus regulation is no less important.

6. Let me say a few words about the need for an austerity budget for the coming year. Malaysia joins all States Parties that believe in the exercise of prudence in spending. During these times of an economic downturn, my delegation welcomes the Technical Secretariat's responsive efforts to revise the draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2013 and to find ways to do more with less. Malaysia has faith in the able stewardship of the Director-General in his efforts at streamlining the work of the Technical Secretariat. While acknowledging the rights of the States Parties and the benefits of consultations, we hope that a decision on the proposed Programme and Budget for 2013 will not be held up due to micro-management of the Technical Secretariat on the part of States Parties.
7. There have also been a number of remarks made on the Technical Secretariat's proposed establishment of the Office of Policy and Strategy. My delegation believes that it is eminently practical for an organisation to have a policy and strategy wing that could oversee its work and strategise its next move. However, while the substance is right, the proposed structure appears to be slightly flawed.
8. A policy and strategy office should not stand on its own because it would have the tendency to alienate itself from the rest of the Divisions in the Organisation. We have seen so many of these structures fail to serve its purpose. Would it not be better if each of the nine Divisions in the OPCW also perform the function of coming up with its own specific policy and strategy? After all, only they know what is best and what is lacking in their own Division. That way, they would also be accountable if they do not meet the mark. We should take to heart the words of Sir Henry Wadsworth Longfellow who wrote "If you wish a thing to be well done, you must do it yourself; you must not leave it to others." Of course, the Director-General would oversee the overall policy and strategy as he has the eagle's eye view of the Organisation. We should not deprive him of formulating strategies, in consultation with member States.
9. Lastly Madam Chair, Malaysia welcomes the on-going consultations to improve the working methods of the Executive Council. The prevailing suggestion to reduce the number of Executive Council sessions from four to three sessions per year is to be lauded. It would increase the effectiveness of not only the Council, but also the Technical Secretariat that has to service the Council. It would allow us more time to reflect and to strategise—something that we have precious little time for otherwise. As for the timing and under whose chairmanship this would happen, my delegation will not brood over possibilities and conjectures. Like many issues more delicate than this one, my delegation is confident that a bright sun will come out from under the clouds.

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