



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Eighty-First Session  
15 – 18 and 23 March 2016

EC-81/NAT.9  
15 March 2016  
ENGLISH only

**PAKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOAZZAM AHMAD KHAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW  
AT THE EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

First of all, I would like to welcome you back to the Chair. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will lead to a successful conclusion. In this endeavour, please rest assured of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I would also like to compliment the Director-General for his comprehensive and detailed report on the activities of the Organisation for Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

While my delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM and China, I would like to offer our views on some of the agenda items.

Pakistan remains strongly opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances. We welcome the completion of the destruction process of all chemical weapons declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. However, as reported by DAT, we have also taken note that there still remain some gaps and discrepancies in the Syrian chemical weapons declarations. We sincerely hope that the Syrian Arab Republic, in consultation and coordination with the Technical Secretariat, will undertake all necessary measures to address these gaps and discrepancies in a verifiable manner.

We have repeatedly condemned the continuous use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the resultant killings of several innocent people. We find such acts totally reprehensible and completely contrary to global legal norms and standards. We strongly reiterate that those responsible for such heinous and deplorable acts must be identified and held fully accountable.

We are deeply concerned about the overall security situation in Libya which remains largely unstable and increasingly unpredictable, and which has threatened the safety and security of remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons in Libya. Resultantly, we cannot rule out the possibility of these chemical weapons falling into the hands of non-State actors. Pakistan welcomes the decision taken by the Fifty-First Meeting of the Executive Council regarding the destruction of Libya's remaining chemical weapons. We will support any consensus decision that ensures the security of remaining chemical weapons and helps the Libyan Government get rid of these weapons as early as possible.



Pakistan regards the Convention as a comprehensive and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, and strongly believes that it is worth every effort to preserve and strengthen this regime. The Convention's effective implementation and near universal acceptance raises hopes that a day might come when all disarmament goals will be pursued in the same manner and the entitlement to equal security will be restored to all.

Pakistan takes its responsibilities to implement the Convention very seriously. In line with our unwavering commitment to international security and global chemical disarmament, Pakistan has established a Chemical Weapons Convention Regional Assistance and Protection Centre, which was formally inaugurated by the Director-General of the OPCW, Ahmet Üzümcü, during his visit to Pakistan last year. In addition, Pakistan also continues to regularly conduct basic and advanced regional and international Assistance and Protection courses. The fifth International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection was successfully held in Islamabad from 16 to 20 November 2015, which was attended by 24 participants from 18 States Parties. This year, Pakistan intends to hold the Sixth Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection from 14 to 18 November 2016. We hope that like previous years, participants from many States Parties will be able to benefit from this course.

My delegation attaches high priority to the Convention's provisions on international cooperation and assistance. Pakistan believes that the Convention's implementation should be carried out in such a manner that it does not adversely affect the economic and technological activities of States Parties. Accordingly, Pakistan fully supports enhanced international cooperation in economic and scientific fields. We believe that investment in this important field of peaceful uses of chemistry will renew the interest of a large number of States Parties to the Convention in the years ahead. We also believe that there is a need for allocating additional financial and human resources for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives by the Technical Secretariat. Similarly, it is equally important that we seriously follow up the recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding the implementation of Article XI.

Pakistan is deeply concerned with the financial liquidity crisis of the OPCW. As it has emerged mainly due to some States Parties not fulfilling their financial commitments to the OPCW, we request those States Parties to pay their dues urgently. It is unfortunate that some of the States Parties are regularly defaulting on their financial obligations without any justifiable reasons. We, therefore, believe that the time has come that the Executive Council recommends some practicable measures to deal with this situation.

In conclusion, I would once again like to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for the core objectives of the Convention and our continued active and constructive participation in OPCW's activities.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-First Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.