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BANGLADESH

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Mrs Jana Reinišová,
Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü,
Deputy Director-General, Ambassador Hamid Ali Rao,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the very outset, I would like to welcome Your Excellency Mrs Jana Reinišová as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We express our confidence in you and hope that the conduct of business of this session will come to a successful conclusion under your able leadership.

My delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his comprehensive statement as well as the Vice-Chairpersons for their respective reports presented at this session.

The delegation of Bangladesh wishes to commend the Director-General and his team in the Technical Secretariat for their hard work and dedicated efforts in the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We are once again honoured to pay our deepest respect to Your Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for your invaluable contribution over the last eight years towards our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons. As you are leaving us this month, we wish you a long life, good health, and successes in your future endeavours.

We would also like to reiterate our total support to the next Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias. We hope that our next Director-General leaves behind a legacy that all of us can cherish in the future, as we are here for the common cause of humanity.

Bangladesh's delegation aligns itself with the statement made at this session by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Bangladesh finds the Chemical Weapons Convention a model disarmament treaty. Only its full universality will make the world more secure from the scourge and horrors of chemical weapons. We congratulate and welcome the State of Palestine for its acceding to the



Chemical Weapons Convention as the 193rd State Party. We believe the State of Palestine's accession should encourage other States which are still not Party to the Convention to join the OCPW at the earliest opportunity.

Only last year, we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and the establishment of the OPCW. Unfortunately, however, our exult has been marred by the numerous further allegations of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, even this year. As an original signatory to the Convention, we would like to reiterate our utmost support for the Convention and the OPCW in achieving our common goal. Bangladesh is firmly committed to the aspirations of the OPCW to make the world safer by eliminating the threat of chemical weapons, both by destroying stockpiles and preventing the re-emergence of such weapons in any form.

Bangladesh is convinced that the adoption of an action plan for the full and effective implementation of Article XI is paramount. We welcome the States Parties' commitment to promote peaceful uses of chemistry under Article XI. Bangladesh welcomes the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat to enhance the implementation of Article XI. While emphasising the importance of the economic and technological development of the States Parties as well as the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of international cooperation, we would like to urge for a systematic approach to the full and effective implementation of this Article taking into due consideration the needs of the States Parties from the developing regions.

Bangladesh commends the dedicated work of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, guided by the Co-chairpersons Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada and Ambassador Bruce Koloane of South Africa. We hope that the Fourth Review Conference of the OPCW scheduled to be held in November this year gives due consideration to the recommendations of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW.

Bangladesh would also like to commend the continued work of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, and the Chairperson of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, Ambassador María Teresa Infante of Chile. Bangladesh welcomes the nomination of Ambassador Oji Nyimenuate Ngofa of Nigeria as the new Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism. We would like to encourage further dialogue and discussion on these pertinent issues.

We commend the important work done so far by the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference under the leadership of its Chairperson H.E. Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia. Bangladesh looks forward to participatory and fruitful discussions in the working group's second cycle. We remain committed to wholeheartedly supporting the group, to make the Fourth Review Conference a great success. We hope that the Fourth Review Conference is a milestone event in providing strategic guidance to this Organisation as well as setting up future priorities and action plans towards our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Bangladesh would like to re-emphasise that it is imperative to ensure equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level in the Technical Secretariat in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44 of the Chemical Weapons

Convention. We believe it will not only reflect the true international character of the OPCW but also strengthen ownership of the States Parties to this Organisation.

Bangladesh considers that the Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programme is an important step towards equitable geographical representation in the Technical Secretariat. As a capacity-building measure, we hope that the Technical Secretariat will find innovative means, such as a trust fund, to cater to applicants to the JPO and internship programmes from the States Parties in the developing world.

Bangladesh would, therefore, request all States Parties to join our appeal to this august chamber for a trust fund for JPOs & Interns from States Parties belonging to the least developed countries.

Like other innovations, and the spirit and generosity displayed by the OPCW in so many areas, this is another sphere where the OPCW could show to the world that mere words are not enough, and that innovative actions are also required.

Bangladesh considers that the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties, held on 26-27 June 2018, is a very significant development in the domain of OPCW. We believe it is high time for us to come together to uphold the letter and spirit of the Convention. As we have always remained a firm believer in the “consensus” culture of this Organisation, Bangladesh looks forward to consensus-based decision making in the OPCW in the future. We believe, through constructive dialogue and negotiation with renewed spirit of cooperation, the OPCW shall be able to eliminate the possibility of any further use of chemical weapons anywhere.

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

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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