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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-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

I welcome Your Excellency Ambassador Jana Reinišová back as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We express our full confidence in you and hope that under your able leadership the conduct of business of this session will come to a successful conclusion.

It is my privilege to welcome again Your Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias as the Director-General of the OPCW. We pledge our full support to you in the discharge of your mandate.

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.

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.

Madam Chairperson,

We believe that only our unflinching commitment to the Convention in its entirety in letter and spirit as well as its full universality can make the world more secure from the scourge and horrors of chemical weapons. Bangladesh hopes that the State of Palestine's accession to the Convention as the 193rd State Party would encourage other States which are still not Party to the Convention to join the OCPW at the earliest opportunity.

Bangladesh considers that the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties, held on 26 and 27 June 2018, is a very significant development in the domain of OPCW. 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, especially at the present challenging time of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

We believe that adoption of an action plan for the full and effective implementation of Article XI is paramount for the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry. 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 Sustainable Development Goals under the auspices of international cooperation, we would like to urge the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat for enhanced collaboration and engagements for effective implementation of this Article.

We deeply appreciate H.E. Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia, Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference for his commendable work till date. Bangladesh looks forward to fruitful discussions as well during the Working Group's remaining period. We remain wholeheartedly committed to this Group, to make the Fourth Review Conference a great success. Bangladesh hopes that the Fourth Review Conference will be a watershed event in the history of the OPCW in providing strategic guidance to this Organisation for the future towards our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

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

Madam Chairperson,

Bangladesh would like to re-emphasise the importance of ensuring equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level in the Technical Secretariat. We firmly believe that it will not only reflect the true international character of the OPCW but also strengthen ownership of the States Parties to this Organisation.

Bangladesh, therefore, submitted to the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference a non-paper on "Internship and Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes opportunities in the OPCW for applicants from the States Parties in the developing world under the regular budget of the OPCW and/or through a Trust Fund towards balanced geographical representation in the Technical Secretariat" and was very happy to see almost a consensus like support, in principle, for our non-paper and hopeful that the Fourth Review Conference under the Chair of Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador will duly recommend to the Technical Secretariat for doing the needful in this regard.

What Bangladesh, in essence, is trying to do is to align with the resolve of the Chemical Weapons Convention i.e. never again with that of Sustainable Development Goal's "no one left behind", and thereby bringing our work and spirit in conformity with what we promised in the Convention. The implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention should go in a manner that avoids hampering economic and international cooperation.

Madam Chairperson,

Before I conclude, let us remind ourselves once again of the painful fact that the Convention is faced with challenges now. If we the States Parties could address these challenges by working together, our shared goal of a world free of chemical weapons would not be far. Bangladesh reiterates its commitment to do it as it is our firm conviction that chemical weapons simply have no place in this century.

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

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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