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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY MS. F.H. SHIFA KUSUMANINGRUM
ALTERNATE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentleman,

I join other distinguished delegates in welcoming you back Madam Chairperson to the Eighty-Ninth session of the Executive Council as we look toward another forward-looking session under your able leadership.

I would also like to express the full confidence and support of the Malaysian delegation to His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias as we welcome him to his first session of Executive Council as the Director-General.

Malaysia associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapon Convention and China.

Madam Chairperson,

Please allow me to provide further update on the trial process involving the case of the use of VX Nerve Agent that assassinated a North Korean national at the KLIA Airport 2 February 2017. The Malaysian High Court announced on 16 August 2018 that both the accused to enter their defence. This is following the prosecution's successful accomplishment in establishing a *prima facie* case against them from the evidence presented in the High Court.

The accused will take the stand for defence once trial resumes on 1 November 2018 in the High Court. The trial is expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2019.

Since the incident, Malaysia has been providing regular updates to the Executive Council of the OPCW as we strive to remain transparent, cooperative, and steadfast in sharing any development, only subject to limitations imposed by the legal process including the risk of sub judice.



Madam Chairperson,

I further take this opportunity to register Malaysia's appreciation, in particular to the Technical Secretariat, for the various trainings and courses offered to Malaysia in our continued efforts to strengthen our human resources and institutional capacity in chemical safety and security management. It is primarily important that the implementation of Article X in international cooperation be reinforced to enhance our state of readiness in responding against the use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

In relation to this, the Exercise on Assistance and Protection for First Responders from the Asian States Parties, which have been carried out in Malaysia for five consecutive years, was extremely helpful in preparing our first responders as well as the region to cushion the peril of possible chemical attacks or incidents in our respective countries. We hope that more programmes of the same nature can be offered to Malaysia, both as host or participant, so that we could learn, share and consequently integrate our response models regionally.

Madam Chairperson,

Achieving consensus in this Organisation has now proved to be a Herculean task. While each State Party has its own national interest to advance, defend, and protect, we must not forget that we are here to achieve common good that serve the object and purpose of the Convention.

Hence, we believe that full, effective, fair, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention should be a prerequisite.

Malaysia would like to express our gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia for his commendable work in steering the arduous negotiation process in the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference. We hope that the Working Group will continue to provide equal platform for all State Parties to voice their concerns and ideas in our effort to achieve a consensus-based document of the Review Conference.

Madam Chairperson,

I thank you for your attention and may I request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the OPCW website and external server.