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**INDONESIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR I GUSTI AGUNG WESAKA PUJA  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION  
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Allow me to join other delegations in extending my congratulations to my dear friends H.E. Agustin Vásquez Gómez, Ambassador of El Salvador as Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference, and to H.E. Marcin Czepelak, Ambassador of Poland as the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole. We are confident that, given your extensive experience and wisdom, you will guide the conference to a successful conclusion.

My delegation also wishes to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to the Chairperson of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties, H.E. Yun-young Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for all his dedication and efforts in guiding us during the Session.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Mr. Fernando Arias for the presentation of his comprehensive report and express our steadfast support to him and the Technical Secretariat in carrying out his challenging duties.

Indonesia also aligns itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. The Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) has become the most effective instrument in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and an example of effective multilateralism. After 21 years of its entry into force, this Fourth Review Conference offers us excellent opportunities to review the operation and implementation of the Convention and lay out possible solutions to challenges as we try to attain the objectives of the Convention.

Universality of the Convention is one of the key benchmarks to measure the success and effectiveness of the Convention. We all can be gratified by the number of State Parties to the



OPCW that has now risen to 193 since the Third Review Conference, with the accession or ratification of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Angola, and the State of Palestine.

However, there are still some States that continue to be outside the Convention, hence preventing total universality. In this regard, we strongly urge States not yet Party to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without further delay or preconditions and emphasise that these States should not derive any benefit therefrom.

While appreciating the efforts for near universality, the threat of chemical weapons remains real as for the past few years we have been experiencing incidents of chemical weapons uses in various parts of the world. It has been Indonesia's consistent position that the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances cannot be justified. The use of chemical weapons is inexcusable which constitutes a grave violation of the Convention and all norms of international law.

We are of the strong belief that all States Parties to the Convention should continue to constructively work together in achieving the general and complete disarmament of chemical weapons including by holding those responsible accountable. The destruction of all chemical weapons, as well as all old and abandoned chemical weapons, must be completed by all States Parties as their continued existence will always pose a threat to the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Until their complete destruction is attained, my delegation believes that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons under strict verification regime should continue to be accorded top priority and that the verification system be improved and adapted in response to advances in science and technology.

Indonesia maintains the strong conviction that international cooperation and technical assistance are key elements to achieve the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention by all the States Parties. We encourage the Technical Secretariat, in close consultation with the States Parties, to take a wholistic approach in providing tailor-made capacity building programmes and activities in order to effectively enhance national capacities in the implementation of the Convention. Furthermore, States Parties ability to fully implement the Convention would build national ownership to ensure the availability of appropriate capability to prevent, protect themselves from, and respond to, chemical attacks and other incidents involving toxic chemicals.

Indonesia views that the project to upgrade the current OPCW Laboratory to an OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology is a significant step forward taken by the Organisation to support capacity building in the States Parties as well as to strengthen science and technology capabilities of the OPCW to fully address the threat of chemical weapons. We, therefore, encourage States Parties to support the establishment of the Centre thus creating an important sense of ownership of all States Parties

Indonesia also underlines the need to allocate sufficient financial and human resources for the drawing-up programmes and implementation of activities related to international cooperation, capacity building, and technical assistance, while also taking due consideration of each States Party's national, regional, and economic capacity.

Indonesia further urges all States Parties to assist the Secretariat in ensuring equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level in the Technical Secretariat, as well as the appropriate allocation for the internship and Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programs, in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44 of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Therefore, better reflecting the international character of the OPCW, as well as to strengthen ownership of the States Parties to this Organisation.

My delegation understands that these have been challenging times for the OPCW. Indonesia is deeply concerned that the gap within the OPCW continues to grow and the unity and consensus processes that once was the highlight of our Organisation has faded. Indonesia is a strong believer in the consensus-based processes of this Organisation and that unity can once again be achieved. All States Parties have a common desire and understanding to fully comply with the Convention and achieve a world free of chemical weapons.

In this regard, the States Parties should reinvigorate their mutual trust and provide stronger political will with resolute efforts in good faith for the full implementation and cooperation of the Convention. Indonesia also strongly believes that any divergence of views or interpretation among States Parties should continue to be discussed intensively in a constructive manner in order to unite views and cast away any doubts.

Finally, please allow me to express my sincere gratitude to all delegations for their constructive approach, cooperation, support rendered to me as Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference (OEWG-RC). I would also like to thank the Technical Secretariat for their vital support throughout the process. I hope that this Review Conference will be able to produce a valuable outcome based on our common endeavors to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention under the able stewardship of Ambassador Agustin Gómez of El Salvador and Ambassador Marcin Czepelak of Poland. I wish all the best and success.

I would like to also convey my delegation's readiness to engage constructively with all States Parties for the success of this Review Conference.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Session and be published on the OPCW website.

Thank you.

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