



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Ninth Session
9 – 11, 18 and 22 October 2018

EC-89/NAT.39
9 October 2018
ENGLISH only

INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR I GUSTI AGUNG WESAKA PUJA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

My delegation would like to welcome you as Chairperson of this Executive Council. Rest assured that Indonesia stands ready to support you, and we are confident that under your able leadership, this meeting will be fruitful and come to a successful conclusion.

As this is his first Executive Council session as Director-General, please allow me to take this opportunity to welcome Ambassador Fernando Arias and express our steadfast support to him and the Technical Secretariat in carrying out his duties. We would also like to thank Ambassador Fernando Arias for his informative and comprehensive report (in this Executive Council session).

My delegation 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.

Madam Chairperson,

The work that we are doing in the OPCW is to ultimately achieve our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons. We firmly believe that this goal could be achieved through the universality of the Convention, and the full compliance and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention by the State Parties. We are of the strong conviction that the recent addition of the State of Palestine, as the 193rd member of the OPCW, is a significant step towards achieving universal adherence of the Convention. Indonesia looks forward to the active participation of the State of Palestine in the OPCW.

Although we laud the efforts for near universality, it is our strong belief that all States Parties to the Convention should work together in achieving the general and complete disarmament of chemical weapons, in line with the Convention and under strict and effective international control. The destruction of all declared chemical weapons, as well as all old and abandoned chemical weapons, must be completed by all States Parties as their continued existence still possess a threat to the re-emergence of chemical weapons.



The threat is real. We are already experiencing sporadic uses of chemical weapons in every part 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. It is inexcusable and a grave violation of the Convention and all norms of international law. Achieving a world free of chemical weapons includes accountability for those responsible for their use.

Madam Chairperson,

Indonesia also attaches its great importance of international cooperation and technical assistance to achieve full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention by all States Parties. In order to achieve this end, Indonesia encourages the Technical Secretariat in close cooperation with States Parties to continue to assist in enhancing national capacities for the implementation of the Convention, and develop tailor-made assistance and protection activities, as well as for the peaceful use of chemistry.

An ongoing initiative that encourages enhancement of national capacities is the establishment and construction of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology. We are confident that this Centre will be key to enhancing capacity and knowledge of States Parties in the area of research, training and technological development. Furthermore, along with Canada as co-coordinators of the Friends of the OPCW Laboratory Group, Indonesia is looking forward to working together with all States Parties to actively contribute to the establishment of the Centre, thus creating an important sense of ownership of all States Parties.

Madam Chairperson,

Indonesia takes note of the increase of the proposed budget for the upcoming year. With that in mind, any discussion and decision regarding the budget should not hamper the work of the OPCW and should be conducted thoroughly and comprehensively.

While noting the benefit of voluntary contribution on specific programmes, Indonesia views that the overall funding of the work of the OPCW, especially on crucial programs, should be derived from the regular budget or sources of additional funding that are based on consensus involving all States Parties, thus maintaining neutrality and objectivity of the Organisation.

Indonesia also emphasises the need to allocate sufficient financial and human resources for the implementation of activities related to international cooperation, capacity building, and technical assistance, and also taking due consideration of each States Party's national and regional economy and capacity.

Furthermore, the budget allocation should also be able to strengthen and reinforce the OPCW's information and technology (IT) system as well as its networks in order to prevent and deter, in the future, any efforts to compromise valuable information that is kept within its database. Any attempt to infiltrate the OPCW IT system would be a grave concern as it would undermine the work and integrity of the OPCW in carrying out its duties under the Convention.

Indonesia would also take this opportunity to emphasize the importance 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. While reflecting the international character of the OPCW, it will also strengthen ownership of the States Parties to this Organisation.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation understands that these are challenging times for the OPCW under the new leadership. However, Indonesia believes that 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, 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 of the Convention should continue to be discussed intensively in a constructive manner in order to unite views and cast away any doubts for any misinterpretations. This certainly includes our deliberation in the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference (OEWG-RC) and the Ambassadorial retreat we had last week provided a great avenue for all of us to enhance our chemistry in dealing with chemicals.

In closing, I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Session and be published on the OPCW website.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---