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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 NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Like other speakers before me, Madam Chairperson, please allow me to take this opportunity to welcome you back. It has truly been a busy time for you and this Council. My delegation stands ready to support you and we are confident with your able leadership.

I would like to express our appreciation to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive statement and commend him and the Technical Secretariat for the tremendous work done regarding the implementation of the Convention and promoting our common goal of a world free of the chemical weapons.

My delegation also associates 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.

It is regretful that last year, we as members of this esteemed Organisation were not able to accomplish an essential and very fundamental task that comes only once every five years, which is the Review Conference. Even though we weren't able to achieve consensus on the outcomes, we note that many issues had received broad consensus. As I recall, there were more paragraphs that achieved consensus rather than those that didn't. Indonesia hopes that this collective endeavour by States Parties will not go unrecognised and could still contribute towards the attainment of the objectives of the Convention.

In this regard, we wish to maintain the overall positive momentum and would like to support the establishment of a mechanism, whatever the name agreed upon, to discuss a priority of issues as a first start, for example the JPO program, internship program, geographical and gender balance of staff and tenure policy, as the lowest hanging fruits on which consensus is within reach among States Parties and to take them up further and provide guidance to the Technical Secretariat.

On the Report of the Fact-Finding Mission Regarding the Incident of Alleged Use of Toxic Chemicals as a Weapon in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic, Indonesia notes with grave



concern of which the report claims of reasonable grounds that the use of a toxic chemical as a weapon took place. In this regard, Indonesia would like to reiterate its strong condemnation on the use of chemical weapons, or the use of toxic chemicals as weapons, by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances, and for whatever reasons. It is reprehensible and a completely grave violation of the Convention and all norms of international law.

We wish to reemphasise that the OPCW and this Council have the sacred responsibility to address this issue and likewise ensure to eliminate and prevent the use and proliferation of chemical weapons in the future.

My delegation recognises the establishment of the attribution mechanism, now called the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). We hold high expectations on the work of the IIT and, as such, must function in a balanced, impartial, and transparent manner in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

My delegation also sees the paramount importance to recognise the changes in the development of science and technology that may proliferate chemical weapons in the future. We should keep abreast with those changes if the OPCW and this Council are to uphold the sacred responsibility to prevent the use and proliferation of chemical weapons.

We remain confident that a world free of chemical weapons can be achieved through universality, full compliance, and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention by State Parties. States Parties and the OPCW should also enhance their collective efforts to strengthen cooperation, including capacity building activities in the area of chemical safety and security as well as in preventing and responding to chemical terrorism by non-state actors. Strengthening international cooperation and assistance as well as peaceful uses of chemistry are among the foremost elements of the Convention and essential features for attaining non-proliferation and confidence building among States Parties.

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

Indonesia is of the conviction that, no matter how difficult it is to achieve consensus on some issues at the moment, 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 of the Convention. Indonesia strongly believes that any divergence of views or interpretation of the Convention should continue to be discussed constructively in order to unite views and cast away any doubts.

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.