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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMAD NAZRI YUSOF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

I join other distinguished delegates to welcome His Excellency Ambassador Andrea Perugini as the Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”). We assure you of our full support and continued cooperation.

I would also like to thank the Director-General, His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report and the work done by his team.

Malaysia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the NAM and China. I would like to add in my national capacity a few updates of particular importance to my country.

Malaysia wishes to express our appreciation to the OPCW for giving us the honour to co-host the Regional Workshop on the Role of Implementing Legislation on the Chemical Weapons Convention in Addressing Threats Arising from Non-State Actors in Kuala Lumpur from 9 to 11 April 2019. Such a Regional Workshop was held for the first time in the Asian region. The Workshop was joined by numerous experts from, among others, the United Nations 1540 Committee, United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), and INTERPOL.

The Workshop provided an avenue for the participants to broaden their familiarity with this topic which will ultimately assist Member States to work towards adopting appropriate legislation and address threats posed particularly by non-State Actors, which are proliferating globally.

The hosting of this workshop is not the first collaboration between Malaysia and the OPCW. Aside from the sixth edition of Assistance and Protection Course for the First Responders from the Asian region to be held in September this year in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia will also host a workshop entitled Malaysia Chemical Incident Preparedness for Hospitals (Malaysia HOSPREP 2019) from 10 to 12 October 2019 at Serdang Hospital, Selangor.



Following the incident involving the use of VX Nerve Agent at KLIA 2 in February 2017, we acknowledge the importance that hospitals should be well-equipped with the apt knowledge in countering any incident involving chemical substances. Malaysia believes that through these efforts, Serdang Hospital can be a pioneer hospital in Malaysia that can effectively encounter chemical incidents, and pave the way for other hospitals in Malaysia and the region to follow suit.

As briefed during the Ninetieth Session of the Council, the Attorney-General's Chambers of Malaysia dropped the charges not amounting to acquittal against the accused Indonesian citizen of the KLIA 2 incident. The accused was released on 11 March 2019. On 1 April 2019, the accused from Vietnam was sentenced to three years and four months jail from her arrest in February 2017. With the usual sentence reductions for good behaviour, she was released on 3 May 2019. Since the trial has been concluded, this could be our final update of the case to the Council.

Malaysia discerns the growing number of chemical attacks within the past five years and condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anybody, at any time, and under any circumstances.

The use of such weapons is a flagrant violation of international law and those responsible in the deployment of such weapons must be held accountable. In pursuing this objective, the OPCW, as a respected technical organisation, must remain impartial, independent and transparent in its work. Under no circumstances should the OPCW be used as a political tool for unjust actions against any State.

Against this backdrop, Malaysia will continue to work closely with the OPCW and other States Parties in implementing the obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

In the same vein, my delegation would like to reiterate our support to the proposal by NAM and China to establish an Open-Ended Working Group to identify and prioritise the implementation of items on which consensus is achievable among States Parties. While we have yet to reach consensus on such mechanism, consultation should be continued. My delegation has listened attentively to each delegate during the course of consultation and observed that every argument has its merits. It is, therefore, incumbent upon us to seek compromise in the interest of achieving consensus.

Thank you for your attention, and I request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the website.

Thank you.

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