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Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, OPCW and CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to be able to speak on behalf of Pakistan House again this year. Let me first thank you for this opportunity. I must congratulate H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, the Director General for continuing to lead OPCW from the front. Let me also appreciate Dr. Paul Walker's remarkable efforts in strengthening the role of CWCC, and helping to promote the supplementary role of civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

Mister Chairman, the danger of reemergence of chemical weapons still remains one of the leading problems. OPCW's framework of cooperation with the State Parties has tremendously shaped the way the world perceives the risks related to proliferation of chemical weapons. Most importantly, the risks that Non-State Actors (NSAs) may steal or buy chemical weapon related material to attack ordinary citizens in major cities of Europe and in other parts of the world – only a public/institutional awareness campaign can enhance wider cooperation among state parties.

Mister Chairman,

Two years ago Pakistan House introduced the idea of “strategic protection” of ordinary citizens from the threats of chemical related attacks. Although the idea in practice has not fully achieved goals in the areas of educational outreach, capacity building, and training programs, but an awareness-prevention formula has been helping to create more effective response by the state parties. The creation of state of the art training facilities (e.g. Labs) in major regions of the world by OPCW and tireless efforts of its professionals to identify the sources and risks of spread of chemical weapons – are two of the main successes of OPCW's growing trust and cooperation with state parties.

Mister Chairman,

I strongly believe that a genuine partnership between state parties-civil society and chemical industry will further the cause of public awareness and educational outreach. Pakistan House considers the role of civil society as a vehicle to supplement and enhance the capacity of the OPCW, and thus continue to promote the use of responsible chemistry.

As an independent, non-partisan and non-political organization, Pakistan House strongly supports the international non-proliferation regime. Under the esteemed leadership of H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, the expansion of awareness campaign and further building knowledge capacity of developing countries has enhanced the prestige of and global responsibility of OPCW. I am confident that OPCW will continue to enhance the training capacity of state parties, in order to establish wider academic programs and exchange of modern technology with the developing world. This strategic framework will not only ensure the implementation of OPCW programs, but will also provide with much needed access to a wide variety of human resource.

Let me take this opportunity and reaffirm that the platform of Pakistan House is available to further the noble cause of OPCW and CWC Coalition and we look forward to participate in the on-going research projects and to help initiate new ones.

Mister Chairman,

Before I close, I want to inform that as a part of promoting the role of the CWC Coalition, Pakistan House once again published the civil society interventions from CSP-23 last year in the form of a booklet. This project too is a part of public awareness about the role of CWC in complimenting efforts of state parties and OPCW.

Let me conclude: It is my hope that the cooperation between OPCW and the CWC Coalition will not only help the capacity building but will also contribute to strategic protection of ordinary citizens.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.