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**MALAYSIA**

**STATEMENT BY DR. MOHD NORHISYAM MOHD YUSOF  
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF MALAYSIA TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Malaysia wishes to express our appreciation to His Excellency Andrea Perugini and His Excellency Fernando Arias for successfully holding this session despite the health risk posed by COVID-19. We hope the situation will improve soon to enable the early resumption of programmes planned by the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”), which are currently deferred. My delegation appreciates the efforts undertaken by both the Chairperson of the Executive Council (“the Council”) and the Director-General in issuing guidelines for participation in this Ninety-Third Session of the Council, taking into consideration the current situation of COVID-19.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and China.

Rapid globalisation of the chemical industry over recent years has increased the urgency for more effective measures to enhance safety and security of chemicals while promoting their peaceful uses. Looking back at history, chemical accidents pose significant threats to people and the environment. This risk is further exacerbated with the threat from hostile actors, in particular terrorist groups. In this respect, we are pleased to note the renewed focus and emphasis of the OPCW towards chemical security, in addition to chemical safety. We welcome deliberations within the OPCW, especially in the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors (SWG) on addressing the inherent challenges and threats in that regard.

Malaysia views the upgrading of the OPCW’s Chemistry and Technology Centre (“ChemTech Centre”) as a crucial step in strengthening the august Organisation’s capabilities in addressing new and emerging chemical weapons threats in a comprehensive manner. This can support our efforts towards the total elimination of these abhorrent weapons. At the same time, the upgrading of the ChemTech Centre will also catapult capacity-building efforts for OPCW Member States. As a responsible Member State, and with the hope to strengthen the ChemTech Centre and capacity-building efforts, Malaysia is pleased to make a modest



contribution to the OPCW Trust Fund in support of the Centre. We also look forward that the ChemTech Centre will support Malaysia's efforts in developing our chemical laboratories towards recognition as an "OPCW Designated Laboratory".

My delegation would also like to take this opportunity to thank His Excellency Agustin Vasquez Gómez of El Salvador and His Excellency I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia for their pivotal role and dedication in conducting the Facilitation of the Organisational Issues as tasked by the Council last year. We hope that under the leadership of His Excellency Matthew Neuhaus of Australia and Her Excellency Laura Dupuy Lasserre of Uruguay, States Parties and the Secretariat can follow through issues that have been identified to be mutually beneficial to everyone, as presented in the provisional summary of the co-facilitators.

Malaysia condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances, and regards the use of such weapons as abhorrent and a flagrant violation of international law. We support efforts that would further strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"). With respect to the draft decision on central nervous system (CNS)-acting chemicals, we are of the view that it will contribute towards the strengthening of the Convention. In this regard, we are supportive of the draft decision on the use of CNS-acting chemicals for law enforcement purposes, and look forward to the comprehensive and constructive discussions on this issue.

Malaysia has continued to benefit from the OPCW's human resource and capacity-building programmes. We are honoured to be given the opportunity to organise a number of international programmes in partnership with the OPCW in the past few years. We look forward to continuing participating in and co-hosting programmes with the Organisation, in support of the common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

Before I conclude, let me take this opportunity to commend the leadership of the Director-General, particularly on his effort to mainstream gender perspectives in the work of our esteemed Organisation. As we celebrated International Women's Day just three days ago, my delegation hopes that the Organisation will continue to incorporate gender perspectives in every discussion, policy, and programme, as we aspire to be an Organisation that is inclusive, diverse, and competent. On a similar note, we hope that the Secretariat will also intensify its effort in ensuring equitable geographical representation and distribution in the Organisation's staffing arrangement.

In closing, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Council and be published on the OPCW website and extranet.

Thank you for your attention.

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