

**Explanation of Vote by
Permanent Representation of Pakistan to the OPCW
at the 94th Session of the OPCW Executive Council
(7-10 July 2020)**

Mr. Chairman

Our position on the draft decision has been fully addressed in our national statement. Pakistan has voted abstention on the draft decision.

I will recapitulate the gist of the reasons for doing so:

The IIT is an innovation in the convention that has been brought about in an arbitrary and selective manner. It goes against the letter and spirit of the CWC. It is inconsistent with principles of the UN charter and is an encroachment on the prerogatives of the UNSC. It subverts fundamental strictures of the convention especially those of Art 12. It seriously undermines the rights of states parties who have subscribed to the Convention by virtue of its balance of rights and obligations. It is unrealistic to expect states parties to support innovations that go beyond the remit of the CWC.

Our position therefore is a matter of principle. We have fully supported the OPCW endeavours in Syria that include the FFM and other undertakings. We have condemned and will continue to condemn any use of CWs. Given the gravity of this issue it remains our hope that careful deliberation and consensus will be restored rather than continuation of initiatives which betray politically self-serving and, arbitrary and selective measures.

Thank you.