Muhammad Athar Javed (Ph.D. Scholar) Director General Pakistan House Denmark

Presentation to the 25th Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-25) Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) The Hague, The Netherlands

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. The post COVID-19 has changed the way most of us are communicating at international forums. Despite pandemic and worsening situation, I must appreciate OPCW and Dr. Paul Walker's efforts to ensure civil societies' participation at this august forum.

Mister Chairman, while the world is busy in grappling with the socioeconomic implications of COVID-19, the risk remains that terrorists might use chemical weapons related material to jeopardize the existing framework of security cooperation. Due to lack of a defined doctrine of "strategic protection" of ordinary citizens, the threats of chemical related attacks have increased.

Mister Chairman, one of the practical ideas to mitigate this risk is to establish mandatory educational outreach program for member states which should include teaching/training in responsible Chemistry. Although the creation of state of the art training facilities (e.g. labs) in major regions of the world by OPCW has significantly enhanced the technical capacity of member states, a genuine partnership between state parties, civil society, and chemical industry is the need of the hour.

Mister Chairman, 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 especially in projects concerning awareness about the role of responsible Chemistry in countering proliferation of chemical weapons related material.

Mister Chairman,

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.