



**Statement by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia
at the 25th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention
(CSP-25)**

30 November – 1 Desember 2020

**Mr. Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies, Ladies, and gentlemen,**

At the outset, I am pleased to devote myself in delivering my maiden speaking engagement through this august body. I look forward in working closely in pursuit of our common interest.

Under this auspice occasion, allow me to convey my earnest felicitations to Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgotia of Mexico as Chairperson of the 25th Conference of States Parties. Rest assured of my delegation's full support and contribute to the success of this body.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, in delivering the report and likewise, commends him and the Technical Secretariat for their steadfast commitment and continuous work under these challenging times. May I also seize this distinct opportunity to extend our appreciation to Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, who has led us in his capacity as Chair of CSP-24.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the NAM States Parties to the CWC and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

Under these unprecedented times, we would like to seize this opportunity to convey our greatest appreciation to all medical health workers, scientists, humanitarian workers and other front liners around the world to their commitment and steadfast readiness.

The Indonesian delegation would like to commend the perseverance of General Committee and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for the convening of the CSP-25 under strict health protocol due to COVID-19 pandemic and, at the same time, fulfilling the mandate of Article VIII of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia will continue to support efforts and programs in the implementation of the Convention, including agreed measures in strengthening the implementation of Article XI on Economic and Technological Activities. States Parties and the OPCW should enhance their collective efforts to strengthen cooperation, especially in capacity building activities in the area of chemical safety and security.

Strengthening international cooperation and assistance as well as peaceful uses of chemistry, are among the foremost elements of the Convention and essential features for attaining non-proliferation and the building of confidence among States Parties.

My delegation would also like to commend the Technical Secretariat (TS) of the OPCW for their cooperation and assistance in these activities. Indonesia stands ready to continue working with the TS and other States Parties to enhance regional capacities in the implementation of the full and effective of the CWC.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia took note of the near completion status of the declared prohibitive scheduled chemicals under the Convention. We firmly believe that the shared interest of all State Parties and strict verification mechanism by the OPCW are essential in achieving the final objective of the CWC. Indonesia urges the remaining possessor states to fulfil their obligation in destroying the remaining declared scheduled chemicals as well as the ACWs before the agreed deadlines.

We cannot ignore the fact that the threat and alleged use of chemical weapons attack or incidents remain visible. Thus, to counter such challenges and threat, it is imperative to continue and enhance appropriate and credible responses as well cooperation by the OPCW and its state parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the 2021 OPCW Budget and Program, Indonesia conveys its appreciation to the co-facilitators and the Technical Secretariat and noted the progress made so far. In this spirit, we are also of the view that the Technical Secretariat could enhance its strategy in anticipating and adapting to new business process against the Covid-19 pandemic; such strategies as efforts to implement the pillars of the CWC in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

In line with that, the Indonesian delegation took note with concern regarding the budget for the International Cooperation and Assistance, which is reduced significantly for next year. While noting with full understanding that such measure has taken into account with the ongoing pandemic situation, we hope that this will not be a precedent going forward and will return to its normal amount, and maybe increased, after the current pandemic situation recedes. We also hope that, despite of the current restrictions and limitations, the TS can still optimize the budget whilst upholding online capacity building programs as much as possible, particularly to the developing countries.

In line to that, Indonesia calls for the enhancement of the OPCW cyber security capacity in ensuring the safety of digitalized business process under the current pandemic situation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia reiterates its position in condemning, under strongest possible terms, on the use of chemical weapons, or the use of toxic chemicals as weapons, by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances and for whatever reasons.

The Chemical Weapons Convention holds a sacred responsibility, as the only multilaterally established verification regime for the general and complete destruction and non-proliferation of an entire category of chemical weapons.

While we took note that the effectiveness of the CWC as being the sole disarmament and nonproliferation regime with the highest rate of WMD destruction progress which contributes to the maintenance of peace and security, Indonesia calls for the credible continuation of the success as the role model for other disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD regimes and urges the remaining states outside the CWC to ratify the Convention.

Indonesia wishes to reiterate its firm commitment on the achievement of complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all chemical weapons in line with the Convention and welcomes the resumption of the OPCW inspection activities, under the Article VI of the Convention, and calls for the Technical Secretariat to continue its verification and inspection mandates without compromising its credibility even in the midst of limited mobility in view of the pandemic.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia takes notes on the efforts and progress made on the elimination and destruction of chemical weapons in Syria. Indonesia stresses the importance of continuous cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic and the use of good faith and constructive dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues.

My delegation took note on the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the alleged chemical incidents in Ltamenah on 24 and 30 March 2017. My delegation reiterates that the IIT mandate as a non-judicial investigative body and the compliance issues shall be settled under the relevant policy making organs in the OPCW based on the Convention.

Indonesia reiterates its views that fact - finding activities and question of compliance should be conducted in impartial, factual and free from any kind of politization by appropriate measures according to the Convention.

In this regard, my delegation urges this august body to support the constructive consultation process between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) in addressing the verification issues without delay.

Mr. Chairperson,

Indonesia calls for dialogue and consensus to be in the forefront of our work. On multilateral stage, differences of views and interests are of course inevitable. However, Indonesia firmly believes that a maximum effort for a broad consensus is the way to go forward. That way, no country will be feeling to be left behind and we can all forge ahead together.

After all, States Parties to the CWC agreed altogether towards a sacred goal of preventing the scourge of chemical weapons and upholding the sacred responsibility to ensure the total elimination, proliferation and prevention of the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals as weapons now and in the future.

Mr. Chairperson,

International cooperation has many folds, multiple benefits and ample considerations in addressing urgent needs such as: the growing global industries and the increase risk on the misuse of chemical materials by the non-state actors on one hand and the capacity building of states parties on the other hand.

We underline the role of the OPCW in supporting the States Parties of the CWC in facilitating the rights of state parties to participate, individually or collectively, to the fullest possible extent on activities for the purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including exchange of chemical technologies, expertise, scientific, and technological information that is aimed at fostering economic development. Along this line, Indonesia highly commends also the approaches taken by the Technical Secretariat in continuing its capacity building programs virtually given the height of the pandemic.

Within this purview, Indonesia calls for an increase of engagement with the chemical industries to promote global chemical trade and to strengthen the mechanism for consultation and cooperation in closing down technological gaps among States Parties.

Through international cooperation, we also see an improvement on the availability of suitable pool of talents. As much as we welcome the increase of capacity building programs, we also would like to see an increase in the geographical representation of the staffs of the TS as mandated under the article VIII.44, particularly for talents from developing countries to gain wider exposure in the field of their expertise.

While we draw the attention for an increase of geographical representation at the TS, we concurrently commend the OPCW for its continued efforts in promoting gender parity at the professional/technical level.

Indonesia reiterates its commitment in supporting and sharing its home-grown experiences with other States Parties under the framework of the OPCW. And as we step forward, we also share a common ideal to invest in a shared future. Consistent with the same principled position, allow me the opportunity to share with you that Indonesia has joined other States Parties in the contribution to the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in responding to the evolving threat of chemical weapons and capacity building in the States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

With these submissions, my delegation wishes that all business at this Conference will be deliberated without ignoring the spirit of all-inclusiveness.

We look forward that the issues to be presented and deliberated at the Conference will reach a broad consensus and we wish to assure this esteemed body of my delegation's full support and readiness to engage constructively with all States Parties and to do its utmost to make this Conference a success.

Finally, I request that this statement, along with the abridged version, be issued as official documents of this Conference and to be published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank You.

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