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INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC
OF INDONESIA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

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 Zabalgoitia of Mexico as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fifth Conference of the States Parties. Rest assured of my delegation's full support and contribution to the success of this body.

Our sincere appreciation also goes to the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias, in delivering the report, and we likewise commend him and the Technical Secretariat for their steadfast commitment and continuous work in 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 Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

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 for their commitment and steadfast readiness.

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

Indonesia will continue to support efforts and programmes 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 building confidence among States Parties.

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

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 States Parties and the strict verification mechanism by the OPCW are essential in achieving the final objective of the Convention. Indonesia urges the remaining possessor States to fulfil their obligation in destroying the remaining declared scheduled chemicals, as well as the abandoned chemical weapons (ACW), before the agreed deadlines.

We cannot ignore the fact that the threat and alleged chemical weapons attacks or incidents remain visible. Thus, to counter such challenges and threats, it is imperative to continue and enhance appropriate and credible responses as well cooperate with the OPCW and its States Parties.

On the 2021 OPCW Programme and Budget, Indonesia conveys its appreciation to the co-facilitators and the Technical Secretariat and notes 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 processes against the COVID-19 pandemic; such strategies are efforts to implement the pillars of the Convention in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

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

In line with that, Indonesia calls for the enhancement of the OPCW cybersecurity capacity in ensuring the safety of digitalised business processes in the current pandemic situation.

Indonesia reiterates its position in condemning, in the strongest possible terms, 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 of the effectiveness of the Convention, as being the sole disarmament and non-proliferation regime with the highest rate of destruction progress of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), 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 not Party to the Convention 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 Article VI of the Convention, and also 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.

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 of the first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) on the alleged chemical incidents in Ltamenah on 24, 25, 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 of the OPCW based on the Convention.

Indonesia reiterates its views that fact-finding activities and questions of compliance should be conducted impartially, factually, and free from any kind of politisation 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.

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

After all, States Parties to the Convention agreed all together towards the 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.

International cooperation has many folds, multiple benefits, and ample considerations in addressing urgent needs, such as the growing global industries and the increased risk of the misuse of chemical materials by non-State actors on the 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 to the Convention in facilitating the rights of States Parties to participate, individually or collectively, to the fullest extent possible on activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including exchange of chemical technologies, expertise, and scientific and technological information that is aimed at fostering economic development. Along this line, Indonesia also highly commends the approaches taken by the Technical Secretariat in continuing its capacity-building programmes virtually, given the height of the pandemic.

Within this purview, Indonesia calls for an increase in engagement with 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 in the availability of suitable pools of talents. As much as we welcome the increase of capacity-building programmes, we would also like to see an increase in the geographical representation of the staff of the Secretariat, as mandated under Article VIII paragraph 44, particularly for talents from developing countries to gain wider exposure in the field of their expertise.

While we draw the attention to an increase in geographical representation at the Secretariat, 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, responding to the evolving threat of chemical weapons and capacity building in States Parties.

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 to the issues to be presented and deliberated at the Conference reaching 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 be issued as an official document of this Conference and be published on the OPCW website and external server.

Thank you.

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