



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF
PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES - EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE
DRAFT DECISION “ADDRESSING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC”**

Mr Chairperson,

It is disappointing to see yet another case of reaching a decision through voting. The tyranny of numbers continues unabated. Pakistan voted ‘No’ on the draft decision and I would like to share our reasons for taking this decision.

Let me recall that Pakistan did not support the controversial decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in June 2018, which resulted in the establishment of the investigation and Identification Team (IIT). We believe that the attribution mechanism does not belong here. It is the prerogative of the United Nations Security Council, and it should remain there. OPCW is a technical organisation, and its nature must remain as such. Therefore, in line with our principled position on the attribution mechanism, we would not support any move that flows from such controversial apparatus.

It is unfortunate to note that we continue to move further away from the time-tested tradition of consensus in this Organisation. This is a disarmament forum and its success had so far depended on consent and compromise. Forced decisions only hinder progress in disarmament. Do we really want to advance towards achieving our disarmament goals or do we only want to focus on achieving short-term political interests, no matter what they cost us?

If we stick to the current trends, where voting is fast replacing the practice of consensus, this Organisation will eventually lose the absolute support it has enjoyed globally for decades. If there was ever a high time to reconsider our positions in the interest of the unity and solidarity of the OPCW, it is now.

Mr Chairperson, I hope henceforward that we shall be guided by the principles which made our exemplary success possible over more than the last two decades.

I request that this statement is considered as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and made available on the official website of the OPCW and extranet. Thank you.

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