

**Statement by Mr. Muhammad Wasif, Chargé d' Affaires a.i.  
Deputy Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW  
at the 100<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW  
(5-8 July 2022)**

**Mr. Chairman**

My delegation extends its heartfelt welcome to you to the helm of the Executive Council as its new chair and we are confident that with your experience and background you will be able to steer the Council and its 100<sup>th</sup> session to a successful conclusion. The delegation of Pakistan assures you of its full cooperation and support to this end.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the States Parties belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

**Mr. Chairman**

It is indeed encouraging to have us all in the Ieper room for this momentous hundredth session of the EC, with further relaxation of the extraordinary measures the OPCW had to adopt for the COVID-19 Pandemic. While we hope to revert to complete normalization in the manner with which we conduct our business, we recognize that the pandemic still hasn't completely been eradicated. So, while we accept the new normal of precaution, we also recognize that the spirit of multilateralism lies in the ability of states parties to effectively have their voices heard, their grievances aired. In the spirit of Multilateralism then, we keep the hope alive that our next session sees us reverting to the old normal and we do not permanently change our ways for the sake of change alone.

**Mr. Chairman**

The complete and effective prohibition of the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction remains the cornerstone of the convention we are all party to. We, therefore, express hope that the complete destruction of declared Chemical

Weapons will finally be achieved this year. We also hope that the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons will follow in a speedy manner as well.

We have also reviewed the reports by the Director General on the destruction of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme and trust that the future course of action will have a more inclusive approach, based on dialogue and continued conversations between the OPCW Technical Secretariat and the State party.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We hope also, that any new measures employed to ensure business continuity in the OPCW, relying on new technology, does not impinge on any member state's right to actively participate owing to unforeseen technological issues. We live in a world which sees many changes and as a group of nations committed to the common goal of eradication of Chemical weapons and the reprehension of their use by anyone, anywhere at any time, we need to make room for differences in approach and ability. We therefore hope that any new modalities that are adopted keep our difference in mind and do not take away from any member state their right of active participation based on technological glitches.

Furthermore, we also note that diversity is key to our organization and the recognition of the same is incumbent upon us all.

In this regard, we note with satisfaction the realization to have further conversations on the Tenure policy and the proposal on business continuity. The OPCW would do well to resort to the tradition of consensus and its heartening to note that in these cases we have, amongst us, the realization to have an inclusive and universal approach.

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation would also like to congratulate the DG for having led the organization through the troubling period of the pandemic and the TS for having employed innovative means to continue providing capacity building activities to states parties. In accordance with the stipulations of article X & XI, we note with satisfaction the strides made during the pandemic to reach out to those stakeholders that required support.

Perhaps it would be amiss to not mention the advancement made in the OPCW chem-tech center. Pakistan is a proud contributor to the chem-tech center and remains ready to collaborate more in this project in the form of capacity building and knowledge sharing activities.

**Lastly, Mr. Chairperson,**

We are presented with a unique opportunity to contribute completely and wholeheartedly to the review conference process, we commend the Open Ended Working Group in this regard and hope that this year we will work towards an inclusive process that would culminate in consensus for the fifth review conference.

Finally, we request that this statement be made part of the official series of the OPCW and be made available on catalyst.

Thank you.

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