



Statement by H.E. Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar,

Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW

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Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation in your work and we wish you success.

We align with the statement made by the Ambassador of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China.

We commend the Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his steadfast leadership and assure him of our full support.

We welcome the steps taken to revert to much needed post pandemic normalcy in our meetings. We noted the detailed letter sent by the DG after the last EC on organization of EC meetings. We hope that we will continue to build on it transparently communicating with states parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

Pakistan remains committed to the convention and its full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation.

We commend the Director General and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for having delivered on its duty in the complete destruction of all declared Chemical Weapons Stockpiles.

The universality of the Convention still eludes us and we note the Director General's report on the action plan in this regard.

We hope that TS would, in line with articles X & XI of the Convention, continue the training and knowledge sharing activities for capacity building to tackle threat of chemical weapons or accidents.

The Center for Chemistry and Technology (Chemtech center) is now active and we look forward to its further utilization.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the continued engagement between the TS and the Syrian Authorities and believe that pending issues will only be resolved through dialogue, cooperation, coordination, and remaining within the remit of the Convention.

We have also observed the report on the Abandoned Chemical Weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

Pakistan continues to arrange and take part in International Cooperation Assistance and Protection training activities in collaboration with the TS. We have a robust National Implementation mechanisms in place and a sub-regional Assistance and Protection Centre serves as a centre of excellence in the region. In addition, Pakistan also has an an OPCW designated laboratory.

Mr. Chairperson,

The budget for 2024-25 is an important item for this EC. Owing to the global inflationary and post pandemic economic trends the departure from zero nominal growth is inevitable. But these trends have had a disproportionate effect on developing countries and we hope this factor would be considered for activities pertaining to developing countries including in the area of international cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome discussion on geographical representation, and tenure policy. The hiring of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible is part of the Convention.

The debate on tenure in some ways also reflects on lack of equitable geographical representation. We support limited flexibility to the Director General to carry out some critical functions of the organizations. However, this flexibility should correspond to the need and not to retention of specific individuals keeping in view requirements of article VIII. In addition, the Director General may exercise retention of personnel in a transparent manner.

Mr. Chairperson,

Consensus is at the heart of international arms control and disarmament negotiations. We took some decisions in the past foregoing our tradition of consensus and if we continue to abandon the spirit of consensus or reinterpret it in a partisan manner, we may have a further divided organization.

With the CWC as our unifying force, Mr. Chair, we still have the chance to safeguard one of the most successful disarmament treaty despite the current challenging geo-political environment. And I would like to reaffirm Pakistan's continued commitment to the CWC and our resolve to see that OPCW continues to perform its duties in an able manner and in accordance with all the articles of the Convention.

I thank you Chair.