

INDONESIA

STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. MAYERFAS
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 28TH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
27 November – 1 December 2023

1. On the outset, allow me to extend our warmest congratulations to Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar of Pakistan for your chairmanship of this year's Conference. We hold every confidence that your outstanding skills and wealth of experience will be pivotal in guiding our collective efforts towards a successful conclusion.
2. I also wish to convey our sincere appreciation to Director General Fernando Arias for his statement, and commend him and his team for the commitment and efforts they have made in the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).
3. Indonesia aligns itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the CWC and China; as well as the statement on the situation in Palestine delivered by Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Chair,

4. The CWC is crucial for international security and global peace, particularly for disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMD). It sets precedent for the collective commitment of States Parties to renounce chemical weapons, fostering an environment where the development and possession of such weapons are not tolerated.
5. In this context, it is worth noting that the CWC offers a significant and valuable platform for States Parties to actively participate in constructive discussions pertaining to matters concerning chemical weapons. Thus, we must continue to preserve the value of multilateralism by enhancing mutual understanding toward our work ahead.
6. Against that backdrop allow me to highlight a few points as follow:
7. **First**, it is imperative to embrace the principle of shared responsibility among all States Parties
8. The international community is currently confronted with the task to effectively and comprehensively implement the CWC.
9. Indonesia firmly believe that the promotion of the full and effective implementation of the CWC and the preservation of its integrity is a shared responsibility among all parties.
 - This also include upholding and fostering trust in the system that guarantees the safety and security against chemical weapons.
10. Indonesia reiterates its unwavering commitment to the CWC and continues to diligently work towards the full implementation of its provisions.
11. For its part, our national legislation is fully aligned with the CWC's implementation and consistently demonstrates commendable results through annual verification and inspection procedures.

12. **Second**, the importance to continue enhancing international cooperation.
 - Indonesia actively promotes CWC awareness at both national and regional levels.
 - These series of events are manifested by conducting tailor made capacity-building programs and chemical management activities in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.
13. We remain committed to participating in international stage and other multilateral fora to collectively work towards a world free from weapons of mass destruction to promoting global peace and security.
 - We also wish to reiterate the importance of Article X of the CWC, as it plays a pivotal role in countering the threats associated with the use of chemical weapons.
14. In this regard, we also emphasize the vital need for the Organization to maintain a high level of readiness, ensuring its ability to offer timely, adequate, and effective assistance and protection to its States Parties in situations involving the use or threat of chemical weapons.
15. **Third**, strengthen assistance as well as facilitation of peaceful uses of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
16. The CWC recognizes the importance of chemistry for peaceful purposes, encouraging the development and exchange of scientific knowledge and technology for the benefit of all.
17. International cooperation and assistance are paramount for ensuring a legitimate and unrestricted trade of chemicals. Consequently, we emphasize the significance of the provisions in Article XI of the CWC. Therefore, the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is essential to ensure the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, scientific and technical information for the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Mr. Chair,

18. Our delegation acknowledges the draft Decision on the Programme and Budget for 2024-2025. We are fully aware of the unprecedented challenges stemming from the current global dynamics.
19. We also understand the necessity of ensuring adequate funding for the OPCW to carry out its essential tasks under the CWC. On the other hand, while advocating for adequate funding, we must be mindful of not compromising the resources allocated to the program activities of the organization, and not to make vulnerable the participation of state parties that have lesser resources.
20. This year marks significant milestones – the complete destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles and the inauguration of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology (ChemTech Centre). This achievement underscores the necessity of shifting our focus towards preventing and responding to the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Consequently, the ChemTech Centre will play an increasingly crucial role, necessitating sustained resources to address future challenges.
21. We warmly welcome the establishment of the Working Group on Geographical Representation and the facilitation process related to tenure policy. These measures will help sustain collective efforts to attract talented professionals with diverse geographical backgrounds to the organization.

22. Last but not least, as we often reiterate, the use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstances is unacceptable. Accordingly, we implore the technical secretariat to take on its duty and monitor the situation in Palestine including any threats or actual use of chemical weapons against Palestinian people in Gaza
23. In conclusion, our delegation hopes that all matters discussed at this Conference will be deliberated with a spirit of transparency, inclusiveness, and consensus-building.
24. We request that this statement be considered an official document and posted on the external server and the public website. Thank you.

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