



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar,**  
**Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW**  
**105<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council**  
**(05-08 March 2024)**

**Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,**

Ambassador Lucian Fatu, we assure you of our full support and cooperation in your work. We deeply appreciate your leadership and guidance to the Executive Council.

We commend Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his able leadership of the Organization. I assure the DG and the Technical Secretariat of our support in carrying out their activities as mandated by the convention.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by Uganda on behalf of the States Parties belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Let me begin by touching upon the continuing tragic situation in Gaza, the international community is failing abjectly in protection of hapless Palestinian civilians against the ongoing brutal Israeli onslaught. We reiterate our call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire; lifting of the inhumane siege; and expeditious delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

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

We commend the work done by the TS for achieving complete and verified destruction of all declared Chemical Weapons.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The CWC is a successful disarmament treaty but the universality of the Convention still eludes us. We commend the joint efforts to achieve this goal. However, the current global geopolitical situation and selective approach could move us farther away from it than achieving universal adherence.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Pakistan remains firmly committed to all the provisions of the CWC. We have a robust national implementation mechanism 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 OPCW designated laboratory.

With respect to article X and XI, my delegation urges for continued engagement with all States Parties. Pakistan co-organized, along with the TS, an integrated advanced course and exercise on responding to incidents involving chemical warfare agents and toxic industrial chemicals for first responders from all regions

Pakistan actively supports implementation of capacity building activities under article XI and hopes to provide further cooperation including in the future courses scheduled for the Center for Chemistry and Technology.

The TS is reviewing its plans for the training cycle under Assistance and Protection Branch for the years 2024-25. It needs more consultations especially with the interested States Parties.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We commend the delegations of China and Japan for the cooperative work being done to achieve destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China.

We have also noted the progress made on the Syrian Chemical Weapons and welcome the engagement between the TS and the Syrian authorities. This is evidenced by the 26<sup>th</sup> round of consultation held between the TS and the Syrian

authorities in January. My delegation has long maintained that the way forward in this case is through continued dialogue and cooperation.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We note the draft decision on geographical representation in our agenda today. The hiring of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible is part of the Convention. My delegation hopes that this decision will pave the way forward for a more inclusive, geographically diverse TS as enshrined in article VIII of the Convention.

We have also noted the emphasis being given by DG on AI's interface with threat of chemical weapons and his intention to work on it. We look forward to this initiative and to contribute to as it moves forward.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Finally, my delegation would like to underscore the importance of consensus-based decision making. Consensus is at the heart of international arms control and disarmament negotiations. We have stepped far away from this time-honored tradition which has resulted in a fragmented Organization.

I would like to reaffirm Pakistan's continued commitment to the CWC and our earnest hope that we revert to consensus in all our decision making.

**I thank you Chair.**