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Statement by

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to the OPCW / Head of the Delegation

At

The 11th Session of the Conference of States Parties of the
Chemical Weapons Convention

The Hague, 5 December 2006
16.30 hrs.

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, allow me to join other delegations in extending our sincere felicitations to you as the newly elected Chairman of this year's Conference of States Parties. We are confident that your able stewardship will contribute greatly to the success of our deliberations. As in previous conferences, please be assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation as we look forward to a favourable and productive session.

We also would like to pay our tribute to your predecessor, the Chairman of the 10th Conference, Ambassador Jose Antonio Arrospe of Peru and applaud him for his exceptional work and successful steering of the last conference.

Further, my delegation wishes to avail this opportunity to extend its warm felicitations to the Republic of Cuba in assuming the Chairmanship of the Non-Aligned Movement as we associate to the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador Oscar de los Reyes Ramos of Cuba on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates

The Indonesian delegation warmly notes the undertakings made to this Convention in fostering peace and security. It is for this reason that my delegation wishes to warmly welcome the new States Parties that have acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention since the 10th Conference of States Parties. Their accession to the Convention brings us closer to the universality of the Convention.

It is at this point we submit to you Mr. Chairman the activities of Indonesia in its evident and unwavering commitment to this Convention. As you may know, Mr. Chairman, Indonesia has been continuously taking every effort in implementing its obligations such as submitting declarations and receiving inspections. As such, 5 successful inspections have so far been conducted by the OPCW inspection team and consequently cleared from previous declarations. It only shows once more and on the spot, that the provisions of the Convention are being properly applied.

Another is the close working relationship with the OPCW to organize three programs in Indonesia, namely: Workshop on Industry Awareness on the Practical Implementation of the Chemicals Weapons Convention last February 2006, National Emergency Response Workshop on Assistance and Protection from Chemical Weapons, and Advance Training Course for Response Team, which were both held last June 2006.

My delegation is also pleased to inform you of the successful conclusion of the Fourth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia held early of September this year in Jakarta. The program was subsequently opened officially by Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Director General of the OPCW. In collaboration with the Secretariat, the meeting, which was concluded with 88 participants from 27 different countries including Myanmar who has rendered political support in the objectives and principles of the Convention and together with other resource personalities, further sustains the understanding of participating National Authorities in Asia of the implementation requirement of the Convention whilst giving an appropriate opportunity for exchange of information and experiences.

At the national level, the Director General of the OPCW and other dignitary public figures such as Cabinet Ministers, and Parliament members exchanged views on OPCW's implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as well as the progress of Indonesia's implementation of the Convention. The meeting concluded wherein the Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister, on behalf of the Government, reiterated its unwavering support for the OPCW's mission whilst both sides agreed to intensify their cooperation in the fulfilment of the Convention goals.

As a showcase of Indonesia's willingness and seriousness on its part to fully implement the Plan of Action, my delegation wishes to inform you, Mr. Chairman, that a priority was being given for passage of a draft law through the Parliament to anchor the Convention's stipulation within the national law with the aim of adopting the legislation no later than mid-2007. In accordance with Indonesia's constitutional process, the President officially conveyed the draft law to the Chairman of the Parliament.

With regards to the activities in 2007, I am pleased to inform you that Indonesia together with Australia and Japan are planning to hold a workshop for industrial sector in Jakarta.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

We see for the fact that it is imperative for this Organization to strike a balance among the three pillars as stated in the Convention, namely: first, the destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons; second, the effort of the organization aimed at non-proliferation of chemical

weapons and third, the International Cooperation and Assistance.

Of the three pillars, the Indonesian delegation attaches great importance that the chemical weapons destruction should remain the highest priority. It is in everyone's concerns that the existence of chemical weapons poses and will always remain a serious threat to international peace and security.

Thus, we underscore that the complete, irreversible and verifiable destruction of chemical weapons and its relevant facilities at the targeted date is one of the core objectives set by the Convention. In this end, we reiterate our call to the major Chemical Weapon possessor states to spearhead their efforts and adhere to their obligations stated in the Convention. This is vital for the credibility of the Convention as destruction and elimination of chemical weapons is the core objective of this Convention.

Moreover, Indonesia also attaches great importance to the efforts to promote International Cooperation and Assistance. Effective International Cooperation and Assistance, which constitutes the highest political relevance to the objectives of the Convention, will have a positive impact on the full implementation and enhancement of universality of the Convention. Hence, Indonesia encourages an allocation increase for financial and technological assistance to strengthen international cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,

With respect to the Plan of Action on the implementation of Article VII of the Convention, we note that as of 29 September 2006, 95% of the States Parties have

designated or established their National Authorities. With this, my delegation warmly welcomes the recommendation by the Executive Council during its 47th Session for one-year extension for the provisions taken during the 10th Conference of States Parties on the decision concerning the Follow-up to the Plan of Action Regarding the Implementation of Article VII Obligations. Thus, my delegation supports to continue its constructive engagement and to provide all possible assistance to States Parties in the process of the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

Another worthwhile issue to be considered and deserved stronger attention is the full implementation of Article XI.

Though we are close to reaching our goal for universality of this Convention, my delegation finds it unessential to impose undue and unnecessary restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes to those States Parties which have shown and implemented their obligations in good faith.

It is a common knowledge that undue and unnecessary restrictions potentially severe international trade. In acceding to the Convention, States Parties are bounded to prohibit the use, production and trade of chemical weapons but not those for peaceful purposes as guaranteed by Article XI of the Convention.

Having known of this fact, it is timely for the Organization to address these matters and fulfil the spirit of the Convention for removal of all forms of unwarranted restrictions. My delegation strongly reiterates and urges all

States Parties to show a constructive approach and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention as rightfully shown during the decision taken from last year's Conference of States Parties.

With the international architecture for promoting peace already in place, perhaps we could now start laying the foundations in making the Convention contribute to the promotion of prosperity among its States Parties at mutual and equal level.

Mr. Chairman,

In response to administrative and financial matters, my delegation takes due note of the considerable time and effort for deliberations on the Draft Budget of the Organization for 2007 and we hence express our sincere and warm appreciation for the facilitators and the Secretariat in steering towards common resolution on this issue. Nonetheless, we reiterate that proper allocation in the regular budget for key programmes and activities remain essential in the interest of the effective operation of the OPCW.

My delegation is also aware of the future implementation of the OPCW policy on tenure. We welcome the recommendation by the Executive Council in extending the exceptional authority of the Director General only to avoid any adverse operational impact in the activities of the Secretariat. However, we dearly emphasize that employment of personnel in the Secretariat should remain fair and transparent and, to a much extent, as geographically represented as possible.

Likewise, we also welcome the recommendation taken during the last session of the Executive Council on the

establishment of a committee on relations with the host country to resolve in a constructive and timely fashion any issues that may arise in connection with the interpretation and implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

In submitting these attentions, Mr. Chairman, our earnest hopes that the issues presented today will be appropriately deliberated as I once again reiterate my delegation's full support and cooperation in ensuring the success of this year's Conference.

Thank you.