

Statement by H.E. Mr. J.E. Habibie Permanent Representative of the Republic of Indonesia to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to the 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties

Mr. Chairman.

Allow me to join other delegations, in extending our sincere felicitations to you in assuming the Chairmanship of this year's Conference of States Parties. We are confident, that under your able stewardship, our deliberations will lead to a successful conclusion.

My delegation wishes to commend the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Abuelgasim Abdelwahid Shiekh Idris of Sudan, for his chairmanship of last year's Conference of States Parties.

I wish also to seize this kind opportunity to convey our heartfelt condolences and sympathies to the Government and the People of India, for the hideous terrorist attacks in Mumbai.

Before going further, my delegation also wishes to associate with the statement delivered by Ambassador Oscar de los Reyes Ramos of Cuba, on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Eleven years after its entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention continues to play an important role in promoting peace and security.

The Convention is moving closer towards universality. We welcome Lebanon for joining in this important endeavor.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to underscore Indonesia's steadfast commitment to this Convention, by submitting to your kind attention, the way Chemical Weapons Convention provisions are implemented in Indonesia.

Significant progress has been made in the effort to implement the Plan of Action on Article VII.

In this regard, we express our sincere appreciation to the Governments of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Kingdom of Thailand, in facilitating the visit of the Indonesian Parliament last year. The visit was for a comparative study, for the drafting of our national legislation.

Our special gratitude also goes to the Technical Secretariat for their assistance and cooperation.

On March this year, Indonesia passed the Law on the Use of Chemical and the Prohibition on Use of Chemical as Weapons.

And a Permanent National Authority will be established in Indonesia, hopefully early next year, as our national law has well been in place for that purpose.

Mr. Chairman.

My delegation further wishes to underline, again, the balance among the pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

One: the destruction of chemical weapons should remain the main priority of OPCW. While congratulating parties who have made progress, we note, with great concern, that only 58 percent of the amount of the declared chemical weapons has been destroyed. As April 2012 is fast approaching, we resonate our calls for a strict compliance with this final deadline.

<u>Two</u>: effective verification is a necessity for attaining non-proliferation and confidence building. Indonesia has no interest in possessing chemical weapons. And the OPCW has conducted, with satisfactory results, 7 verifications and inspections in various industrial sites in Indonesia.

<u>Three</u>: International Cooperation and Assistance, for us, is the most important element for a free and legitimate trade of chemicals. To our regret, such a trade is still hampered by unwarranted restrictions. We wish this issue to be deliberated and must be attended.

In connection with efforts to enhance International Cooperation and Assistance and with a view to promoting universality, it is worth considering to hold a meeting in collaboration with sub-regional groups, such as one in our sub-region.

Mr. Chairman,

Last but not least. By submitting these attentions, my delegations wish that all the business at this Conference and any other Conferences in the future of this august body will be deliberated accordingly, without ignoring the spirit of transparency and all-inclusiveness, so as not to undermine this Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation wishes to ensure to you of our fullest cooperation and support for the success of this Conference.

Thank you.