

**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR AIZAZ AHMAD CHAUDHRY,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND LEADER OF PAKISTAN DELEGATION
to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
at the Fourteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons
Convention
The Hague, 30 Nov – 4 Dec 2009**

Mr. Chairman,

1. Allow me at the outset to congratulate you on your election as the Chairman of the 14th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I assure you of my delegation's full cooperation in ensuring the success of the Conference.
2. To our outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Minoru Shibuya of Japan, we express our appreciation for the wise and skilful leadership that he provided.
3. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of Cuba, Ambassador Oscar de los Reyes Ramos, on behalf of the Member State Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement to the CWC, and China.

Mr Chairman,

4. The Director-General in his statement has provided to the Conference a comprehensive report on the progress made during the year in the implementation of the Convention. In addition to expressing our satisfaction at the dedicated manner in which the Technical Secretariat continues to perform its duties, I wish to place on record our deep appreciation for the services rendered to the OPCW by Director-General Rogelio Pfrirer.
5. During his tenure, the Director-General set an excellent example as the head of an important international organisation. He showed strong commitment to the goals of the Convention as well as political acumen in promoting the Organisation's relations with a diverse membership and their sometimes competing demands. We wish him every success in his remaining term here and his future endeavours.
6. The agenda of the Conference includes the appointment of his successor for which the Executive Council has unanimously recommended the name of an outstanding diplomat Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü of Turkey. The strong consensus enjoyed by his candidature during the selection process at the Council, is clearly indicative of his high qualifications both professional and personal to lead the Organisation into the future. We look forward to the Conference appointing him by acclamation as the next Director-General of the OPCW.
7. I would also like to recognize the high diplomatic skill of the Chairman of the Executive Council, Ambassador Lomonaco of Mexico, who led the selection process with dexterity and efficiency as well as thank all other candidates whose sincerity to serve the Organisation and its aims became even more obvious in the constructive manner in which they enabled the selection process to progress.

Mr Chairman,

8. As we begin another important session of the Conference, I reaffirm the high importance that my government attaches to the effective implementation of the only legal instrument in the area of weapons of mass destruction that comprehensively and without discrimination prohibits an entire category of such weapons under conditions of international verification.

9. We, therefore, regard the effective implementation and strengthening of the CWC as vital to preserve its validity as an exemplary means of dealing with challenges of disarmament and non-proliferation.

10. The acceptance of the Convention by 188 countries testifies to the validity of the principles and motivations on which it is based. We warmly welcome Lebanon, Iraq, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas, who acceded to the CWC since the last Conference of States Parties. One of the key challenges for the OPCW is to attract the adherence of those who are yet to become States Parties. And it is our hope that they would do so in the near future. Universality of the Convention is critical to ensure that the norm against chemical weapons is accepted globally and without exception.

11. The Director-General and the Secretariat have run an effective and successful campaign to promote the Convention's universality and we request them to sustain their efforts for outreach and awareness with the remaining States in order to achieve the goals of the Action Plan on Universality.

12. The other crucial challenge before us is to ensure that the disarmament obligations set forth in the Convention are fully respected. There has certainly been considerable progress in destruction of declared stockpiles of chemical weapons by the possessor States. However, we note that destruction of more than 45 percent of the Chemical Weapons stockpiles remains outstanding and needs to be completed before the final extended deadline of April 2012.

13. Destruction of one category of chemical weapons i.e. old and abandoned chemical weapons also requires continued serious attention.

14. We believe that verification of the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles should remain the foremost priority of the Organization. It would be premature to shift the focus from destruction to non-proliferation at this stage.

15. It is by now clear that one or more of the possessor States will default on the obligation to meet the final destruction deadline. This poses a real dilemma as the integrity of the Convention is placed in competition with reasons that are delaying reaching the final goal. The policy making organs of the OPCW will have to engage in a serious discussion to find a resolution of this issue in a manner that will respect the integrity and credibility of the Convention. The policy organs will have to carefully look at the nature of possible non-compliance, its objective causes and provide a remedy in accordance with the letter and spirit of the Convention. This much the Executive Council has already agreed on while tasking its Chairman to commence consultations on the issue.

16. We are hopeful that under the able leadership of the Chairman of the Executive Council, the Council would be able to devise a solution acceptable to all in light of the Council's guideline as contained in para 5.11 of its Report (EC-58/9 dated 16 October 2009) "that no action should be undertaken that would undermine the Convention or that would raise questions about the commitment of States Parties, or lead to the rewriting of or reinterpreting the Convention's provisions".

17. Here we also emphasise that the obligations of the Convention must be respected at all times. Consultations on situations "unforeseen" under the Convention are currently underway. There is a need to have greater clarity, including possible legal opinion, to guide us better in this regard. We feel that if all States Parties remain true to the spirit of the Convention concerns such as those that led to such consultations can be fully addressed within the terms of the Convention that provides considerable authority to the policy making organs.

Mr Chairman,

18. The implementation of Article VII obligations remains an area of continuing work in accordance with the Plan of Action covering Article VII. We note with satisfaction the important achievements made with regard to implementation of Article VII obligations during this year as reflected in the relevant Report of the Director General (EC-58/DG.5). This significant progress demonstrates that the Plan of Action, based on a constructive approach, has served us well in furthering the implementation of the Article VII obligations. We support the continuation of this positive approach and will remain supportive of any constructive proposal that seeks to enhance the implementation of the Convention around the world in a cooperative framework. We express our appreciation for the important work undertaken by the Technical Secretariat and would encourage it to continue its efforts.

19. For its part, Pakistan has put into place appropriate laws to implement its CWC obligations. And CWC implementation rules and regulations are at an advance stage of finalization. We have established an effective export control authority for all types of strategic materials. Pakistan has also invested considerable resources in creating an effective National Authority and establishing a secure communication network called the Wide Area Network (WAN) that gathers various CWC related declarations and data from the industry and all other stakeholders. We appreciate the positive response by the Technical Secretariat to our offer of sharing our expertise in the electronic submission of declarations by organizing a regional training workshop in Pakistan next year. We also look forward to hosting an international course on assistance and protection next year. Pakistan attaches utmost priority to chemical safety issues and is organizing capacity building workshops at the national as well as bilateral levels.

20. We also hope to make positive contribution to the work of the Scientific Advisory Board through our recently selected expert.

21. The Provisions of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance represent an important pillar of the Convention. Strengthening this column must remain a priority objective for our Organization. There is a rightful expectation of majority of the non-possessor developing States that by joining the Convention they would have access to chemicals, equipment and technology for peaceful purpose. That promise must be fulfilled. We would particularly like to express our concern that in contravention of Article X Para 3, there continue to be restrictions on access to Protective equipment.

22. We believe that sensitive technologies and materials must be adequately controlled to ensure their use only for peaceful purposes. This is evident from our new comprehensive national legislation. However, this objective cannot justify practices and cartels which hinder trade in chemicals, equipment and technology among States Parties for demonstrably peaceful purposes. We need to restore balance and even-handedness in the implementation of the obligations under the Convention.

23. We welcome the resumption of consultations on full implementation of Article XI which we hope will lead to the identification of concrete measure on implementation of Article XI. We reiterate our support to the proposal of holding a workshop to explore ways and means for full implementation of Article XI. The deliberations at the Workshop could also lead to the adoption of an Action Plan along the lines of successful plans in other areas.

24. Effective verification of chemical industry is an essential feature of the confidence building provisions of the Convention. That is why Pakistan has spared no effort in ensuring that our obligations under the Convention are fully met and this is reflected in the smooth and successful conduct of inspections in Pakistan. I am pleased to inform that all our OCPFs and POE stakeholders remain fully prepared to receive routine industrial inspections through regular outreach visits by the National Authority.

25. Over the years, the Technical Secretariat has accumulated a wealth of experience in the conduct of routine industrial inspections. In this regard, we would request that, without breaching the aspect of confidentiality under CWC, the Secretariat may regularly update State Parties on its experiences for the smooth and effective conduct of such inspections.

26. We fully recognize and appreciate the efforts of the Technical Secretariat and State Parties in organizing important meetings and workshops at the international, regional and sub regional level. In order to enable all State Parties and relevant stakeholders to benefit from these important meetings, it is strongly recommended that the Technical Secretariat upload the presentations and reports on OPCW's website.

27. We note in the Director General's Report no. EC-58/DG.5 that during first year of its implementation the modified site selection methodology has generally performed in line with expectations and that more inspections have taken place in States Parties with larger number of plant sites as well as to facilities of greater relevance. While these trends are unexceptionable, we hope that this interim measure will eventually be replaced by a methodology agreed between States Parties as required under the Convention. In this regard, we look forward to early resumption of consultations on this issue to arrive at an appropriate decision that would provide an enduring basis to the site selection methodology.

28. On the related matter of increasing the overall number of inspections of OCPF plant sites, we need to proceed with due care and deliberation keeping in full view the original intent reflected in the Convention which establishes a hierarchy of threats that different types of chemicals and related facilities pose to the object and purpose of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

29. This Conference is required to approve the Programme and Budget for the OPCW for 2010. We support the Budget 2010 and commend the Technical Secretariat for a generally balanced, zero-nominal growth budget. The draft Programme and Budget 2010 represents a step forward in the direction of results based budgeting and incorporates some of the recommendations of the external auditor as well as better formulations of core objectives and key performance indicators. We are satisfied to note that the difficult issues such as proposals to increase the number of OCPF inspections, which consumed substantial time and effort last year, and the approval at sub-programme levels were resolved in a constructive spirit. We reiterate our position that prior understandings in the dedicated consultations should be reached before such proposals are reflected in the budget.

30. The question of the impact of the tenure policy would require our attention at this session. We trust that the tenure policy would not adversely impact the established benchmarks in the human resource management of the Secretariat as well as the operational requirements. We are confident that the additional information requested by the States Parties on these issues will reconfirm that the relevant policies are being implemented with due regard to meritocracy, fairness in geographical distribution and the Secretariat's need to preserve institutional memory in transfer of knowledge from incumbents to new staff members.

31. We propose that in the interest of transparency and better human resource management, the Technical Secretariat may consider preparing regular annual reports on the composition of the Secretariat for the information of the State Parties.

Mr Chairman,

32. In conclusion, I wish to say that my delegation approaches this session of the Conference with considerable hope that the constructive spirit of consensus that has generally marked our work will be preserved once again for the success of this Conference which in turn strengthens the goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention. On our part, my delegation remains ready to contribute constructively towards reaching positive decisions on all issues before the Conference.

Thank you