

**STATEMENT BY MR. UMAR HADI
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EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA IN THE HAGUE /
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
TO THE 16TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

Mr. Chairman,

Allow me to join other delegations in extending our sincere felicitation to you for assuming the chairmanship of this year's Conference of States Parties. We are confident that your skills and experience will enable you to steer our work to a successful conclusion. I would like to assure you that our delegation will support you fully, and work together with other delegations in a constructive manner in order to have a successful Conference. We also wish to congratulate the newly elected Bureau members of this 16th Session.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend your predecessor, Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva of Guatemala, a representative from a Member State of the NAM, for his chairmanship of last year's Conference of States Parties.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Zelmys Dominguez Cortina on behalf of the NAM Chemical Weapons Convention States Parties and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Indonesia reaffirms its steadfast commitment to this Convention. Indonesia continues to work on its implementation of the Convention's provisions.

Throughout 2011, the Indonesian Government has been disseminating the information on the significance of the Convention and its implementation to all our national stakeholders. It is our belief that the full implementation of the Convention can only be attained when all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, have the understanding on the noble purpose of the Convention.

The Indonesian Government is also in the process of formulating a new draft law on Chemical Act. We are of the view that such law together with Law No. 9 of 2008 on the Use of Chemical and the Prohibition on Use of Chemical as Weapons will further strengthen our national legislation on regulating chemical substance in all its aspects, including the issue of chemical safety and security. Against this backdrop, we commend the initiative of the Director General of the OPCW in convening the Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security in September 2011.

We share the view of the Director General that enhancing safety and security in the areas of commercial production, transportation and use of chemicals and biochemical materials is becoming ever more important. In this regard, Indonesia stands ready to work closely with the Secretariat of the OPCW and other States Parties to the Convention on further discussing the issue of chemical safety and security in the current global context, including by enhancing cooperative and capacity building undertakings at regional level.

Mr. Chairman,

The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. Therefore, it is our strong belief that all States Parties to the Convention should work together in achieving general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

The total destruction of chemical weapons is one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention, and, therefore, should remain the main priority of the Organization. In this regard, completion of destruction of all chemical weapons, including abandoned chemical weapons, within the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012, as set forth in the Convention, constitutes an integral part of the obligations of the chemical weapons possessor States and abandoning States Parties.

While congratulating concerned states who have made significant progress in destroying their chemical weapons, my delegation regrets to note that the final extended deadline will not be met. Despite the fact that more than 70 percent of the total destruction is projected to be completed at the time of the final extended deadline, nevertheless, this would still be insufficient. It is therefore important that the possessor states continue their efforts in destroying their stockpiles and production facilities in the shortest possible time and within a specific time frame. For our delegation, an open-ended time frame for the destruction of the stockpiles and production facilities is certainly not an option. Therefore, we consider the draft decision on the final extended deadline submitted by the Executive Council to the Conference in its last meeting on 25 November 2011 as a possible middle ground for a consensus based, clear and constructive solution.

Mr. Chairman,

We are of the view that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full universality of the Convention. In this regard, we urge all States that have still not joined the Convention to do so without further delay. We commend the Technical Secretariat and all States Parties for their efforts to promote the universality of the Convention.

International Cooperation and Assistance, for us, is the most important element for a free and legitimate trade of chemicals. Therefore, my delegation recalls the importance of the provisions in Article XI of the Convention, and emphasizes that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is essential to the realization of the purpose of the Convention.

The States Parties are obliged to implement the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, as well as international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

We would like to urge all States Parties to ensure the removal of and to avoid the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the commitment to transfer technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field, and to remove any discriminatory restrictions that affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among States Parties.

We also would like to reaffirm that the implementation of Article X of the Convention on assistance and protection against chemical weapons makes a significant contribution to countering the threats of the use of chemical weapons. In this regard, we cannot overemphasize the imperative of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the Organization to provide timely, adequate, and effective assistance and protection to its States Parties in situations of use or threat of use of chemical weapons against them.

Indonesia also acknowledges the contribution of the OPCW to global anti-terrorism efforts through full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. At the same time, we would like to underline that the OPCW is not a counter-terrorism Organization. We highlight the imperative need of international cooperation in the context of the Convention for preventing terrorists from acquiring and/or using chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

With these submissions, my delegation wishes that all business at this Conference and any other future Conferences of this august body will be deliberated without ignoring the spirit of transparency and all-inclusiveness, in order not to undermine the integrity of Convention.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Conference.

I thank you.