



**STATEMENT BY**  
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**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND LEADER OF PAKISTAN**  
**DELEGATION**  
**to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons**  
**at the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to**  
**the Chemical Weapons Convention**  
**at WFCC, The Hague, 26 – 30 November 2012**

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. Chairman,

I wish at the outset to congratulate you Ambassador Peter Goosen on your election as Chairman of the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference of the States Parties. We are assured of a successful and productive outcome because the Conference is being guided by someone of your abilities and experience. Needless to say that the delegation of Pakistan will extend to you its full cooperation and support.

We also acknowledge your predecessor Ambassador Paul Arkwright's commitment and dedication not only during the last session of the Conference but throughout a busy and eventful year.

Mr. Chairman,

While associating itself fully with the statement delivered by H.E Mr. M. M. Akhondzadeh Deputy Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the States Parties belonging to the Non-aligned Movement and China, I will outline the approach of my country on issues that we believe are critical for the future of the OPCW which stands at an important crossroads.

Director General Ahmet Üzümcü has in his statement provided a comprehensive overview of the activities of the Secretariat over the last year. More importantly, he has also addressed our attention to some of the crucial questions facing the Organisation.

I wish to express Pakistan's appreciation to the Director General for his effective leadership of the Secretariat and for clearly enunciating both the achievements of the OPCW as well areas requiring our close and serious attention.

This year the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) completed fifteen years as a functioning and effective international treaty. A blemish in an otherwise outstanding record is the missed final deadline for the complete destruction of declared chemical weapons and the fact that the Organisation departed from its proud tradition of consensus to adopt a decision on this crucial matter. The outcome of that issue reflects a significant compromise that was made keeping in view the provisions of the Convention that cover matters of such fundamental importance. No doubt the progress made in destroying chemical weapons and

the stated commitment of the possessor States were the extenuating circumstances that aided this decision. It is now up to the possessor States to reciprocate by ensuring that the remaining stockpiles are eliminated as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

The CWC stands out as incomparable and worth every effort to preserve and to strengthen it. Its existence and near universal acceptance raise hopes that a day might come when all disarmament goals will be pursued in like manner and that the entitlement to equal security will be restored to all.

The basis of legitimacy of the Convention is its character as a non discriminatory international treaty. Our unwavering support for it stems from this quality as well as its humanitarian appeal. We are, however, concerned that a convergence of factors have created new challenges for the Organisation that could hamper its growing standing. There is no denying the fact that disarmament - the principal *raison d'être* for the OPCW - has registered significant progress and that future calculations regarding resource requirements need to take into account this reality. At the same time, the global financial crisis creates temptations to reduce budgetary allocations. Such impulses unregulated by objective considerations of the long term health of the Convention or the integrity of OPCW's programmes could be damaging.

We are of the view that the Director-General's managerial responsibility in assessing the real needs of the Organisation should be fully trusted and strengthened. This is fundamental good practice. The combined wisdom of strengthening his authority while at the same time providing to him a general road map for the future is what is needed of States Parties at this critical juncture. We trust that the Third Review Conference of the CWC next year offers precisely such an opportunity to facilitate the transition of the Organisation in a manner that preserves and strengthens the Convention for the long term.

My delegation would like to acknowledge the useful work carried out thus far by the Open Ended Working Group for the preparations of the Third Review

Conference. We look forward to the Chair's draft report, which is likely to be circulated in few weeks time.

While we prepare ourselves to review the operation of the Convention next year we must also realize that that virtually the entire international community is unanimous in supporting a chemical weapons free world. No other legal instrument relevant to weapons of mass destruction can claim this distinction which underscores the principle that disarmament and non-proliferation are readily acceptable and successful through non-discriminatory instruments and policies and under conditions of strict international verification.

Mr. Chairman,

Treaties succeed with the support of all their members. The balance of rights and obligations in the Convention represents a carefully managed consensus. Despite the CWC being the most successful disarmament treaty, there is work to be done in several areas.

We can take satisfaction from the fact that the Convention is now supported politically and legally by 188 countries of the world who are its States Parties. Acceptance of the Convention by the international community on this scale is unprecedented. But the goals of the Convention will remain unmet until it attains complete universality. We call upon all States that are not parties to join the Convention at the earliest.

Pakistan also supports efforts to promote the effective implementation of Article VII of the Convention. The assertion that domestic implementation strengthens the overall effectiveness of the Convention is fully justified. We, however, also take an objective and sympathetic view on this issue, especially, since most of the countries that have not been able to fulfill the requirements of the Convention are developing countries faced with competing challenges and lack of necessary resources. We believe that the initiatives taken by the Secretariat in this regard are positive and encouraging.

Pakistan takes seriously its responsibility to implement the Convention. This is evident from our national legislation that covers not only the Convention but also our related international obligations. We are one of the first countries to

show our concrete support to the National Authority Mentorship Programme and will closely share with another State Party our experience in implementing the CWC.

This gesture is indicative of our pragmatic approach towards the Convention. We believe that the OPCW must not become a battleground for the seemingly opposing ideologies of disarmament and non-proliferation. Both go hand in hand.

We attach great importance to the provisions of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance. We believe that greater investment in this area will generate stronger support for the overall goals of the Convention by the vast majority of its States Parties. This is the reality. It does not need new rationales or justifications. Similarly better implementation of obligations under the Convention to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes can only serve the long term interests of strengthening the Convention.

In conclusion, I once again reaffirm Pakistan's strong support for the goals of the Convention and the work of the OPCW. We share the satisfaction that this work has received recognition and support from the international community as witnessed during a variety of events that were held this year to commemorate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. The Director General and staff at the Secretariat deserve our commendation for the effective manner in which they have projected the accomplishments of multilateralism as evident at the OPCW.

My delegation approaches the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference in this positive spirit and we will work actively and constructively for its success.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the 17<sup>th</sup> CSP.

I thank you.