



Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
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Statement by H.E. Enayatullah Nabel
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic
Republic of Afghanistan to the Organization of the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons at the Eighteen Session of the
Conference of State Parties
2- 6 December 2013

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Director General
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure to congratulate you Ambassador Sa,ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iraq, to the Organization of Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on your election as the chairman of the Eighteen Conference of the State Parties. Let me assure you of the full cooperation of my delegation, in the discharge of your mandate. I am confident that under your able chairmanship the Conference will conclude its important work, successfully.

Allow me to convey my appreciation to the outgoing Chairman Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, as well, for his wise stewardship of the 17th Session of the Conference of the State Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

I am delighted for the opportunity to address the Conference of State Parties at a time that the Nobel Committee decided to bestow this year's Peace Prize on the OPCW. Availing this

opportunity it is my pleasure to extend my delegation's cordial congratulation to Ambassador Ahmat Uzumcu and to the Technical Secretariat staff. It is a well deserved reward. As a relatively young international organization, OPCW can take pride on its outstanding achievements. My delegation wish you Ambassador Uzumcu and your colleagues at the Technical Secretariat further successes in your efforts and tireless work towards total elimination of the chemical weapons from the planet earth, and assure you of the full support of my government. Ambassador Uzumcu led the organization in an outstanding professionalism at all time, including the time that the organization is facing grave challenges. While we admire him for the excellent job done, my delegation is pleased to announce its full support to the reelection of Ambassador Uzumcu to lead the organization for another term.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Said Abbas Araghchi, Deputy for Legal and International Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the Non-aligned movement and China.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation condemns the horrific chemical attack in Syria which resulted to painful death of hundreds of innocent people. It was a barbaric act. Use of chemical weapon under any circumstances and under any pretext is not permissible. It is a grave crime and as the UN Secretary General stated "it is a war crime and crime against humanity". Therefore the perpetrators of this crime should and must be identified and brought to justice.

The swift response of the international community to address this grave challenge and the dedication of the Director General and the OPCW staff in this operation as well as the successful cooperation and coordination of the OPCW and UN Joint Mission is a strong assurance that the destruction of the stockpiles will be completed in an effective and professional manner.

But Mr. Chairperson, the destruction of chemical weapons by itself, will not put an end to the loss of life of hundreds of people that are dying every month as result of continuation of the conflict. It will not end the suffering of millions of refugees and internally displaced innocent men, women and children. It is our sincere hope that all parties in the Syrian conflict come to the negotiation table and resolve their differences through peaceful means and put an end to this grave tragedy. War is not the answer. It will bring nothing but misery.

Mr. Chairperson,

We welcome the accession of the Republic of Somalia and Syrian Arab Republic to the Chemical Weapons Convention. The accession of Syrian Arab Republic to the CWC brings the Middle East one step closer to chemical weapons free zone. My delegation calls upon all other countries located in the Middle East and that are not party to the Convention, to accede to the Convention, and in the interest of safety and security of their own people, destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles, contribute to and join the efforts of those who are striving to make the dream of a chemical weapons free Middle East, a reality. It would be in the interest of peace and security in the Middle East and the world, to go even further and work on the idea of a Middle

East free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction which has been under consideration for many years. In this context we support convening of an international conference, proposed yesterday by the distinguished Ambassador of the Saudi Arabia, to discuss and explore possibilities of realization of a Middle East free of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairperson,

As it's stated in the first paragraph of the preamble of the Convention, one of the most important objectives of the Convention is "general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control". While we welcome the destruction of very large percentage of the chemical weapons by the possessing countries, we call upon them to take all appropriate measures towards the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons in their position, in the shortest possible time, under verification of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation believes that for full implementation of the Convention, implementation of each and every articles of the Convention is important. However, as a least developed country we attach great importance to the Article XI. We believe developing an action plan for the effective implementation of the Article XI as it was proposed to the Third Review Conference will facilitate and pave the way for better and more effective international cooperation, thus provide better opportunities to developing countries in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairperson, I would like to request that this statement be issued as official document of this session of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.