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**STATEMENT BY MR WITJAKSONO ADJI, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF
THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA
AT THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,

Let me take this opportunity to extend our sincere felicitations to you Ambassador Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq in assuming the Chairmanship of this year's Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that under your able stewardship our deliberations will lead to a successful conclusion. Our congratulations also go out to the newly elected Bureau members of this Session.

My delegation wishes to commend the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, for his able chairmanship of last year's Conference of the States Parties.

Indonesia wishes to associate itself with the statement made by H.E. S.A. Araghchi of Iran who spoke on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

We have seen the vindication of the Convention's unparalleled success in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. The conferment of the Nobel Peace Prize on 10 December in Oslo will be a historical milestone for all the States Parties as well as a manifestation that the Convention plays an integral part in the promotion of peace and security.

For not only does the OPCW deserve recognition for being the most effective organisation in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation, and for having overseen the elimination of 80 percent of the world's chemical arsenals in the past two decades, it also sends an important message that diplomatic and peaceful solutions as well as multilateralism can prevail and are the best choice to resolve for even the most delicate problems such as weapons of mass destruction.

It reminds us of the importance that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons under strict verification should continue to be accorded top priority. It also reminds us that further efforts could be undertaken by other possessor States Parties of the Convention to achieve their complete destruction in the shortest time possible under verification by the OPCW.

We applaud Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü for his leadership and his able staff for their keen sense of integrity and professionalism and for their perseverance in their mission even in the face of an extreme conflict, and for that it should be commended. Therefore, we support the draft decision for the renewal of appointment of the current Director-General Üzümcü.

We are solemnly reminded of the difficult task entrusted to our Organisation, and never in the history of the Organisation has it been called upon to verify a destruction programme within such short timeframes during an ongoing conflict.

We firmly believe that efforts to totally eliminate chemical weapons in Syria will be successful. We appreciate the report provided by Ms. Sigrid Kaag, Special Coordinator for the OPCW-UN Joint Mission, yesterday.

For its part, Indonesia stands ready to support the proposals as put forward during the Executive Council that lead to peaceful and comprehensive solutions to eliminate chemical weapons in Syria.

We welcome the Federal Republic of Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic as new State Parties to the Convention. This is indeed an encouraging development. However, we underline the importance of universalisation to continue with vigour and call upon the six remaining countries outside the Convention to join without delay and precondition.

Indonesia wishes to reiterate its strong support in promoting the universality in the Southeast Asian region.

Under this line, Indonesia is ready to support and work closely together with the Technical Secretariat to explore concrete cooperation between ASEAN and OPCW. The ASEAN Charter, which has been ratified by all of its member countries, has a mandate to preserve the Southeast Asian region free from all types of weapons of mass destruction including chemical weapons. This was reiterated in the ASEAN statement during the Sixty-Eighth Session of the United Nations General Assembly last October 2013, which also calls for the universality of the Convention. My delegation is of the view that a platform of cooperation between ASEAN and OPCW will continue to develop relationships and partnerships, as appropriate, in order to promote awareness of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

As a founding member of the ASEAN, we are concurrently pleased to note and welcome the constructive engagement of the Government of Myanmar and the encouraging signs of development in the context of becoming a State Party to the Convention.

Indonesia stands ready to support and assist the Union of Myanmar to this end.

Another worthwhile issue to be considered and deserves attention is the implementation of Article XI on economic and technological development. In acceding to the Convention, States Parties are duly obliged to prohibit the use, production and trade of chemical weapons, but not those for peaceful purposes as guaranteed by Article XI of the Convention.

To that end, Indonesia reiterates that facilitation of the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technological information for purposes not

prohibited under the Convention, is essential to further sustain cooperation amongst respective States Parties.

Thus, under this tenet, Indonesia strongly advocates the Action Plan proposal as cited by the Non-Aligned Movement and China during the Third Review Conference. Under this purview, it will reinvigorate a stronger commitment and stimulate a more positive disposition to enhance national implementation measures of the Convention.

With the rapid development of chemical industry, particularly in the Southeast Asian region, the question of safety security in the area of legitimate production, transportation and use of chemicals is of growing importance.

Together with ASEAN Member States, we emphasise the need for a region-wide mechanism on safety and security of chemicals, including mechanisms for tackling chemical accidents and incidents as was proposed in 2011 during the informal consultation on the possible modalities for an active ASEAN regional participation at the OPCW Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security.

To partially fulfil the need for the South East Asian region to enhance its respective national chemical security culture, Indonesia with the support of the Technical Secretariat and partner countries and organisations, has successfully concluded the table top exercise on the preparedness of the States Parties for consequence management of a major chemical incident last August 2013. The exercise, which was attended by countries in that region, was indeed a useful tool in validating and improving readiness of emergency responders.

Thus, we also perceive the exercise as a concrete step towards cooperation at a regional setting in the field of emergency preparedness. To this end, Indonesia stands ready to work with other ASEAN Member States and the Technical Secretariat of OPCW to develop and consider concrete proposals on chemical safety and security in the South East Asia region.

Finally, my delegation expresses support for the draft decisions taken by the Executive Council to this Conference, and by submitting these attentions I would like to reiterate my delegation's readiness to engage constructively with all the State Parties during this Conference and do its utmost to make this Conference a success in the spirit of transparency and all - inclusiveness.

We request that this statement be issued as an official document of this Conference.

I thank you.

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