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**PAKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOAZZAM AHMAD KHAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW  
AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,

Please allow me, at the outset, to convey my warm felicitations on your election as Chairperson of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. You bring to this Conference extensive experience which I am confident will guide this session towards a successful conclusion. In this endeavour, please rest assured of my delegation's utmost cooperation.

I would also like to appreciate the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia, for leading the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties in a most effective and admirable manner. May I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his comprehensive and detailed report on the on-going and planned activities of his Organisation.

While we fully associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China by Ambassador Dr Ali Reza Jehangiri, of the Islamic Republic of Iran, I would like to share Pakistan's views on some of the issues that we believe are critical for OPCW's future and require our close and serious attention.

Pakistan welcomes the significant progress achieved in the elimination of chemical weapons and destruction of chemical production facilities in the Syrian Arab Republic. We also welcome the establishment of the Joint Investigation Mechanism, under the unanimously adopted United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015), and hope that it will conduct its mission in an objective, impartial and comprehensive manner. However, we are deeply concerned over the latest findings of the Fact-Finding Mission reports that once again confirm the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Pakistan remains strongly opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances. We have repeatedly condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the resultant killings of several innocent people. We find such acts totally reprehensible and completely contrary to global legal norms and standards. We strongly reiterate that those responsible for such heinous and deplorable acts must be held fully accountable.



Pakistan regards the Convention as a comprehensive and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, and strongly believes that it is worth every effort to preserve and strengthen this regime. The Convention's effective implementation and near universal acceptance raises hopes that a day might come when all disarmament goals will be pursued in the same manner and the entitlement to equal security will be restored to all.

We draw satisfaction from the fact that the Convention is now supported politically and legally by 192 States Parties. Pakistan welcomes the accession of Myanmar and Angola to the Convention. However, the complete elimination of the threat of the use of chemical weapons would remain far from reality until all remaining States not Party accede to the Convention. Acceptance of the Convention by 99% of the global community is a significant milestone, but the Convention's complete universality is critical to ensure the safety and security of the world against the threat of chemical weapons. We therefore, once again, call upon these States to join the Convention without further delay and preconditions.

Pakistan takes its responsibilities to implement the Convention very seriously. This is evident from our national legislation that comprehensively covers our national and international obligations under the Convention. Our National Authority remains fully involved in all issues related to the Convention.

In line with our unwavering commitment to international security and global chemical disarmament, Pakistan has recently established a CWC Regional Assistance and Protection Centre, which was formally inaugurated by the Director General OPCW Ahmet Üzümcü, during his visit to Pakistan a few days ago. In addition, Pakistan also continues to regularly conduct basic and advanced regional and international Assistance and Protection courses. The fifth International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection was successfully held in Islamabad from 16 to 20 November 2015, whose proceedings were also witnessed by the Director-General. The course was jointly organised by the Government of Pakistan and the OPCW and attended by 24 participants from 18 States Parties.

In addition to regular mock inspection exercises, we are organising another chemical emergency response exercise for all our Chemical Weapons Convention declared industries. Likewise, keeping in view the global focus on chemical weapons, Chemical Weapons Convention National Authority successfully organised a national seminar on chemical safety and security in Islamabad in June 2015, which was attended by a senior OPCW expert and all relevant national stakeholders. Pakistan is also willing to share its expertise in countering the use of IEDs by terrorists.

Pakistan has recently established and declared a Schedule -1 chemical protection research laboratory which was also visited by the Director-General during his recent visit to Pakistan. We look forward to the provision of training opportunities for our experts and hope that it would soon be recognised as an OPCW designated laboratory.

My delegation attaches high priority to The Convention's provisions on international cooperation and assistance. Pakistan believes that the Conventions implementation should be carried out in such a manner that it does not adversely affect the economic and technological activities of the States Parties. Accordingly, Pakistan fully supports enhanced international cooperation in economic and scientific fields. We believe that investment in this important field of peaceful uses of chemistry will renew the interest of a large number of States Parties to the Convention in the years ahead. There is also a need for allocation of adequate financial

and human resources for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives by the Technical Secretariat. It is equally important to follow up the recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding implementation of Article XI.

We appreciate the timely decision to establish an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and would extend all possible support to its effective functioning.

In conclusion, I would once again like to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for the core objectives of the Convention and our continued active and constructive participation in OPCW's activities.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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