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Mister Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, OPCW and CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am pleased to be able to speak on behalf of Pakistan House again this year. Let me first thank you for this opportunity to speak. I must congratulate H.E. Mr Ahmet Üzümcü who recognized the potential of the CWC Coalition, and also congratulate Dr. Paul Walker for leading the CWCC, and helping to promote public awareness of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to facilitate the productive involvement of civil society, including non-governmental organizations.

Mister Chairman, the Paris terrorist attacks stunned the entire international community. According to the French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, authorities must imagine that the grimmest threats are possible. “We know and bear in mind that there is also a risk of chemical or biological weapons.” There is a serious concern that *Da’aesh* may use chemical material and weapons to inflict mass casualties in the Middle East, in European cities, and possibly elsewhere. This development can only create extreme challenges for both the OPCW and security apparatuses.

Mister Chairman,

Pakistan House firmly believes that together with State Parties, the OPCW can contribute towards a more effective safety mechanism for the world’s citizens. Building capacity of State Parties to prevent such attacks should top the agenda, thereby encouraging respective partners to incorporate the importance of non-proliferation and dangers relating to the misuse of chemical material. The multi-pronged approach to counter threats of chemical terrorist attacks would also grant the OPCW a new role in the field of preventing asymmetrical threats to chemical industry, research and development, although this does not allude to policing of the existing mechanisms.

Mister Chairman,

The partnership between the OPCW, civil society, academics, and safety and security organizations is a requirement that in the end would help prevent future threats to citizens and chemical installations. The significance of public awareness about chemical terrorism links with future strategy and collaborative measures under the umbrella of the OPCW. This is precisely the approach which Pakistan House supports and seeks to achieve through working-partnerships with other members of civil society organizations.

As an independent, non-partisan and non-political organization, Pakistan House has been contributing to an on-going discourse on implementing a coherent international non-proliferation regime, which must not impede the peaceful uses of chemistry, especially in the fields of research and development (R&D). Pakistan House is to undertake a research project in the field of “promoting a culture of responsible chemistry.” This futuristic vision will only enhance the capacity and comprehension of emerging scientists and policy makers in respective countries.

Let me take this opportunity and reaffirm that the platform of Pakistan House is available to further the noble cause of the OPCW and CWC Coalition and we look forward to participate in the on-going research projects and to help initiate new ones.

Mister Chairman,

Before I close, I want to express our congratulations to this year’s winners of the OPCW-The Hague Award – Dr. Alastair Hay from the United Kingdom and Dr. Mahdi Balali-Mood of Iran – who both have worked for decades in the non-governmental sector to promote the abolition of chemical weapons and to care for those individuals who’ve been victimized by toxic chemicals.

Let me conclude: It is my hope that the threat of chemical terrorism will rather unite the OPCW and the CWC Coalition and together we can counter these threats and help advance the field of peaceful uses of chemistry. Building capacity in the area of responsible chemistry and “educational engagement” will supplement the implementation process.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish for this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.