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MALAYSIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR AHMAD NAZRI YUSOF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MALAYSIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates

On behalf of the Malaysian delegation, it is my privilege to congratulate and welcome Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín of Mexico as Chairperson of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and to congratulate Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia for her excellent stewardship of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

My delegation would also like to express our appreciation to the Organisation's Director-General, Ambassador Ahmed Üzümcü for his effective and dynamic leadership and the Technical Secretariat for their tireless efforts in promoting the peaceful use of chemistry and towards achieving the full implementation of the Convention.

Malaysia align itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ambassador Dr Alireza Jahangiri, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement CWC State Parties and China.

At the outset, my delegation wish to register that Malaysia is committed to its obligation with regards to the programme and budget of the OPCW for 2016. Malaysia attaches great importance to full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

We welcome the progress made in the destruction of the declared chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and commends the OPCW and the United Nations for the impressive work and achievement.

In this regard, Malaysia wishes to reaffirm its support on the adoption of the United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015) and resolution 2118 (2013); and condemns the use of toxic chemicals including chlorine gas as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic or elsewhere and calls upon all parties to render their full cooperation to the OPCW's Fact-Finding Mission.



Malaysia also supports the United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) on the establishment of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism, in consistent with Malaysia's longstanding principled position of opposing the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances, and to ensure that the perpetrators are identified and be held accountable.

Further, Malaysia wishes to reiterate its supports on the establishment of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, and pleased to inform that Malaysia has set up its own National Advisory Board on Education and Outreach in October 2015 this year.

On the same note, we wish to congratulate the efforts undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) on Terrorism to examine further OPCW's contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts.

We further welcome the establishment of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors of the OEWG on Terrorism to explore measures to strengthening the Convention's mandate and enhancing its capacity to contribute to global anti-terrorism efforts.

It is our fervent hope that all these hard work will eventually be justly rewarded.

As the year comes to a close, it is time for us to once again reflect on what we have accomplished and what we have not, as States Parties, and as an organisation entrusted to ensure that the use of chemical will not bring about violence and destruction but instead help to promote peace and development for all mankind.

We can take pride that the Convention stands out as a successful model of a multilateral security cooperation.

We take pride and a sigh of relief that the elimination and destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile is nearing total completion, but at the same time we are now confronted with a growing threat of chemical weapons and the threat from the non-State actors are more extensive and complex, that demands OPCW and States Parties to respond appropriately.

At the same time, the Third Review Conference in 2013 discussed at length on the future of this Organisation. The Eightieth Session of the Executive Council deliberated quite extensively on the new direction this Organisation should take.

My delegation views that though the days of the declared chemical weapons are numbered, that does not mean that OPCW is fading into oblivion, that the role and function of the OPCW will become less relevant.

Our mandate and objective remain the same, that is, to see the world free of chemical weapons and the threat it poses to world peace and security.

What is important is how we adjust and fit ourselves to this new environment, how can we effectively and efficiently meet these new challenges and changes, to ultimately achieve our objectives.

With the limited resources available, perhaps we need to re-organise ourselves in order to adapt, relook at our work procedures, review our priorities and enhance our capacity.

As a State Party to the Convention, Malaysia has benefited from the international cooperation programmes organised by the OPCW especially on capacity building.

We look forward to more constructive cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in enhancing Malaysia's national capacity to meet its obligations under the Convention.

Malaysia on its part, reiterates its commitment to the goals of the Convention. We are determined to work with other States Parties and the policy-making organs of the OPCW for full realisation of the Convention.

In closing, may I request that this statement be included as an official document of this meeting and be posted on the website.

I thank you all for your kind attention.

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