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**MALAYSIA**

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

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset, Malaysia is pleased to join other States Parties in congratulating His Excellency Ambassador Dr Christoph Israng of Germany as Chairperson of the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

In the same vein, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to His Excellency Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín of Mexico for his dedication and outstanding stewardship of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Malaysia would also wish to commend and express its appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat for their excellent work throughout the year.

Malaysia aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami, on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

There are a mountain of tasks and challenges before and ahead of us. Despite the hard work of OPCW and the world community to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons, these threats are becoming more eminent than ever, more so with the emergence of a new form of chemical weapon, perpetrated by new groups of non-State actors.

After almost two decades in existence, it's time for us to know where we stand, to take stock and inventories our success and failure, our strength and weaknesses, so that we can progress with greater confidence and effectiveness. In this regards, Malaysia welcomes and support the initiatives undertaken by the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities of the OPCW, under the able stewardship of the Ambassador of South Africa and Canada, to recommend holistic, coherent, forward-looking and action-oriented proposals.

Malaysia also recognises the importance of education and outreach programmes as one of the pillar policies in achieving the full objective of the Convention. A better informed society



and industry serve as an effective deterrent to the emergence of a new threat of chemical weapon. To this end, Malaysia supports the work of the Advisory Board of Education and Outreach (ABEO).

States Parties, through its respective National Authority, should cooperate and work hand in hand with OPCW and ABEO, to disseminate the message and information about the gleaming threat and danger of chemical weapons and the misuse of chemicals, to every section of the society and target groups.

Malaysia on its part, has been actively promoting awareness, capacity building and resource development programmes through its National Authority. In 2016, Malaysia has organised 15 national and international level programmes. Malaysia also has organised various outreach and educational programmes involving government sector, civil societies, chemical industry and students.

We are pleased with the efforts undertaken by the Technical Secretariat to facilitate consultation and cooperation between States Parties to exchange views and best practices in the area of chemical safety and security.

My delegation is equally concerned with the growing threat posed by the non-State actors. The threat of the use of chemical weapons by non-State actors seems to be much more complex and difficult to handle. Just a couple of weeks ago we witnessed a fatal incident of chemical weapon attacks in Syria and Iraq that claimed many innocent lives.

In this respect, Malaysia fully supports the effort of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non State Actors. We are hopeful that the final recommendation of these working groups would be able to offer a workable solution to this issue.

With regard to Syria, Malaysia would like to call upon all parties involved to demonstrate their utmost sincerity and commitment to avoid further delay in the elimination and destruction programme of chemical weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. Malaysia strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons as per the reports of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) which concluded that there were sufficient information to determine that toxic substances were used as weapons in Talmenes, Sarmin and Qmenas in 2014 and 2015, and Da'esh's use of sulfur mustard in Marea, in an attack on 21 August 2015. Malaysia therefore, demand that all its perpetrators immediately desist from any further use of chemical weapon and be held accountable for their actions.

In closing, Malaysia wish to reiterate its commitment to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention and the assurance of its continued support and cooperation. Universality of the Convention is essential to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention. In this regard, Malaysia calls on countries still outside of the Convention to accede without further delay.

I thank you all for your kind attention, and may I request that this statement be included as an official document of this Session and be posted on the website. Thank you.