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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. I must congratulate Dr. Paul Walker for leading the CWCC, and helping to create awareness about the noble cause of prohibition of chemical weapons through academics and non-governmental organizations.

Mister Chairman

The threat of reemergence of chemical weapons and related material in conflict and war zones has generated remarkable concern among States Parties and non-governmental organizations. The analysis of current and historical occurrences has been the source to configure future preventive designs. However, the increasing role of non-state actors may well mount further challenges to the OPCW and other international organizations.

Mister Chairman,

Pakistan House strongly backs the idea of further collaborations between the CWC Coalition, States Parties and the OPCW. Strengthening educational outreach and academic research will directly impact the ways State Parties can build capacity and train professionals in the field of chemistry. An academic-practitioner approach will help build a comprehensive system of assessment and verification. Hence, the availability of more robust and research-based analysis of impending dangers of use of chemical weapons or material against the innocent civilians. At the 20th anniversary, the OPCW has proven to be the most formidable support system against the spread of chemical weapons and related material.

Mister Chairman,

It is the need of the hour that the OPCW and States Parties help develop Centers of Excellence on Countering Chemical Terrorism (CECCT) in different regions of the world so that all intentions and plans of using toxic chemicals to terrorize civilians are prevented. Pakistan House considers that such a platform will be one of the most useful sources of applying policy and tactical methods in countering chemical terrorism. We are ready to offer our expertise and services in building such centers.

As an independent, non-partisan and non-political organization, Pakistan House is consistently contributing to the futuristic vision of the OPCW. I am confident that the OPCW will continue to provide both intellectual and material resources to promote the cause of countering chemical terrorism and promotion of responsible chemistry.

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 inform all that as a part of promoting the role of the CWC Coalition, Pakistan House once again published the civil society interventions from CSP21 last year in the form of a booklet.

Let me conclude: It is my hope that the OPCW and the CWC Coalition can further help in the ongoing research initiatives. Creating media awareness about the work of OPCW should be included as one of the objectives in the “educational outreach” which in turn will help build a wider network of communication between the OPCW and ordinary citizens.

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.