



**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR I GUSTI AGUNG WESAKA PUJA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

27 November 2017

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me take this opportunity to extend our sincere felicitations to you, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, in assuming the Chairmanship of this year's session of the Conference of States Parties. We are confident that under your able stewardship, our deliberations will lead to a successful outcome. My delegation also wishes to commend the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Christoph Israng of Germany, for his chairmanship of last year's Conference.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the NAM States Parties to the Convention and China.

Mr. Chairperson, Director General and Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia wishes to underscore, once again, the balance among the important pillars set forth in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Firstly, a world free of chemical weapons can be achieved through universality, full compliance and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention by State Parties.

Indonesia, therefore, reiterates its call upon few remaining States outside the Convention to join the Organisation, as universal acceptance to the Convention is crucial to its success.

Indonesia commends significant progress, including an achievement in the completion of the verified destruction of Russia's chemical weapons program. Meanwhile, the other possessor States and related States must still undertake further necessary measures to accelerate complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons in its due course. Complete disarmament and non-proliferation are mutually reinforcing and are essential for strengthening international peace and security.

However, while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention, chemical weapons use such as in Khan Shaykhun, as reported recently by Fact Finding Mission and Joint Investigative Mechanism, have nevertheless raised new challenges. It has been our consistent and principled position that chemical weapons use by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances must be condemned.

Secondly, effective verification is an essential feature for attaining non-proliferation and confidence building. Indonesia has no interest in possessing, producing, developing, or using chemical weapons. The Technical Secretariat has conducted verification and inspections in various industrial sites in Indonesia with satisfactory results.

Thirdly, strengthening international cooperation and assistance as well as peaceful uses of chemistry, for Indonesia, are among the foremost elements of the Convention.

States Parties and the OPCW should enhance their collective efforts to strengthen cooperation, including capacity building activities in the area of chemical safety and security as well as in preventing and responding to chemical terrorism by non-state actors, who pose a threat that the international community cannot afford.

In terms of chemical security, Indonesia, thus, supports the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors to work continuously with forward looking priorities as well as to explore the possible direction, which the OPCW should deal with in the future.

Likewise, Indonesia encourages the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities to enhance and deepen discussion on the issues relating to chemical security, including the mounting challenges of threats by non-state actors, and welcomes further their useful work to attain its end in preparation of the 4th Review Conference in 2018.

In considering, Indonesia sincerely believes that an integrated approach is necessary in the works between the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities to embrace comprehensive, useful and workable recommendations in the future.

In terms of capacity building programs in the area of chemical safety and security, Indonesia welcomes the Program and Budget of the OPCW for 2018 as it includes significant activities relating to international cooperation and assistance, and wishes to emphasise that these should remain reflected in the Organisation's program and budget in the years to come.

Indonesia remains fully committed to supporting programs where participants from States Parties can share their expertise and best practices concerning chemical safety and security.

This year, in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, Indonesia has hosted 3 programs, namely (i) Workshop on Needs Assessment and Best Practices on Integrated Chemical Management in Jakarta on 20-22 March 2017; (ii) Regional Table Top Exercise on Article X (Assistance and Protection) in Bali on 23-25 May 2017; and (iii) a three-week industrial internship under the OPCW Associate Program in a chemical company last September.

Mr. Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

Indonesia attaches great importance to the need for a sustained and strengthened cooperation with the OPCW.

Indonesia, therefore, is grateful of the first bilateral visit of the Director General of OPCW to Jakarta on 26-28 July 2017 where a potential cooperation in the areas of mutual interest has been discussed with the Indonesian government and Permanent Representatives of ASEAN as well as its Dialogue Partners. This visit shows the importance of the Southeast Asian region on the issue of chemical weapons.

Furthermore, the adoption of the 12th East Asia Summit Leaders' Statement on Chemical Weapons recently in Manila reaffirms the obligations and commitments of 10 members of ASEAN and its Dialogue Partners, namely Australia China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States of America, to the Chemical Weapons Convention, including the emphasis on the need to respond to the current development related to the use and threats of use of chemical weapons or chemicals as a weapon.

This is in line with the vision of ASEAN 2025 to preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from weapons of mass destruction, as part of its contribution to global efforts on disarmament and non-proliferation. This also constitutes a reflection of a unified voice of ASEAN together with other leaders in our collective and resolute endeavours to contribute further to the realization of the objectives and purposes of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation is pleased to endorse the recommendation made by the Executive Council at its 86th Session that Ambassador Fernando Arias Gonzalez of Spain be appointed to the position of the next Director General. Rest assured of Indonesia's continued support and cooperation upon the discharge of his solemn duty.

My delegation also wishes to congratulate Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and his team for their tireless endeavours and the achievements that have been made, and for having put the OPCW in the height of a well-respected recognition. May I warmly convey our highest compliments to Director General Ahmet Üzümcü for a job well done. Let me re-assure my delegation's continued support and cooperation during the rest of his term.

In closing, let me echo the distinguished speakers before me in conveying our full cooperation to you for the success of this Conference.

I request that this statement be included as an official document of the Conference.

I thank you.