



OPCW

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INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS RETNO L.P. MARSUDI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to join other delegations in extending our congratulations to you in assuming the Chairmanship of the Review Conference. We are confident that, given your extensive experience and wisdom, you will guide the conference to a successful conclusion.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Director-General, Mr Ahmet Üzümcü for the presentation of his comprehensive report. Equal appreciation also goes to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on the preparation for the Third Review Conference, Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for her untiring efforts and dedication in preparing the draft report documents of this Review Conference.

Indonesia associates itself with the statement made by the Deputy for International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran who spoke on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

After 16 years of its entry-into-force, the Convention is considered as the most effective instrument in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation and an example of effective multilateralism.

We need to sustain this success. We need to ensure this through the outcome of the Review Conference. It is pertinent that we keep the Convention relevant to the needs and interest of its States Parties.

The Convention must be able to do at least two things: (1) Maintain confidence in the system where the security and safety against attack of chemical weapons is ensured; and (2) Ensure possibility of receiving the benefit from the full exchange in chemistry for peaceful purposes that is essential to the economic and technological development of all States Parties.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is about eliminating existing chemical weapons and preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.



While acknowledging the progress in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpile since the Second Review Conference, the continued existence of chemical weapons (particularly possibly far beyond the final extended deadline) is a cause for concern. We therefore call for major possessor States to take every necessary measure to ensure the completion of destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest time possible.

Until their complete destruction is attained, my delegation believes that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons under strict verification regime should continue to be accorded top priority.

We note that the verification regime of the Organisation has been effective in meeting the requirements of the Convention.

The verification under Article VI, however, must correspond to the hierarchy of risks inherent in the respective category of chemicals. Thus facilities posing most risk to the object and purpose of the Convention should retain the central attention of the verification measures. In this regard, in relation to declaration and inspection of other chemical production facilities (OCPFs), Indonesia supports directing inspections towards facilities of greater relevance to the object of the Convention and removing irrelevant facilities from the list of the declarations and inspections. In addition, it would be useful if the verification regime continue to be strengthened in a manner consistent with the Convention and taking into account the advances in science and technology.

With 188 State Parties, the Convention has almost a universal membership. Only a few countries remain outside the regime, but they would nonetheless be a barrier to the complete elimination of chemical weapons. We are of the view that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full universality of the Convention. We will do our part in promoting universality of the Convention in our region.

Indonesia is of the view that universality should remain a high priority and urges all States not Party to join the Convention without further delay.

The report of alleged use of chemical weapons recently in Syria, a State not Party, is a lucid example that made us even more resolute in our resolve to call for universality. We should not let another incident keep on recurring or haunt us from the past. We should thrust our efforts for universality, as well as for the complete destruction of chemical weapons. Words should be translated into deeds for no human being should suffer a reprehensible fate under a shroud of terror.

We underline that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. We also express our support of the investigation that has been initiated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations with the support of the OPCW.

My delegation recalls the importance of the provisions in Article XI of the Convention, and emphasises that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is essential to the realisation of the purpose of the Convention.

My delegation welcomes the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on “components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI” and encourages Member States to chart a course of action towards the full implementation of Article XI.

Therefore, Indonesia supports the plan of action proposed by NAM Convention States Parties and China as we jointly believe that this is the best tool to ensure the full implementation of Article XI.

Since the Second Review Conference, we are pleased to note the Secretariat’s ready assistance to States Parties, in accordance to Article X.

It is indeed crucial for the OPCW to maintain a high level readiness in being able to provide States Parties with adequate and effective assistance and protection in a timely manner, in the event of a use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons. We welcome the table-top exercise which began in 2010 in Warsaw, Poland. Indonesia has the honour to organise a similar table-top exercise, to be held in Jakarta, in June 2013.

Indonesia reaffirms its commitment to the Convention and will continue to work on the implementation of the Convention’s provisions. In addition, the Indonesian Government continues to disseminate relevant informations to all our national stakeholders, including the civil society, in order to have a comprehensive understanding of the Convention. Civil society serves as valuable partners of the Government in the implementation of the Convention.

Mr Chairman, in closing, I would like to reiterate my delegation’s readiness to engage constructively with all States Parties during this conference and do its utmost to make this conference a success.

We request that this statement be included as an official document of the conference. I thank you.

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