



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Seventh Session
7 – 10 October 2014

EC-77/NAT.6
7 October 2014
ENGLISH only

PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MOAZAM AHMAD KHAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, let me welcome you back to the Chair and express my confidence in your able leadership to steer this session to a successful conclusion. In this endeavour, please be assured of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I would also like to commend Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for a very comprehensive report on the implementation of the Convention.

While my delegation associates itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Alireza Jahangiri, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, I would like to briefly offer our views on some of the agenda items.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, we have achieved an important milestone with respect to elimination of its chemical weapons. However, Pakistan is deeply concerned about the conclusions of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission which has confirmed the systematic and repeated use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Pakistan has repeatedly condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the resultant killings of so many innocent Syrians. We remain opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances and find it reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. We believe that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable for their actions. Therefore, Pakistan fully supports the continuation of the Fact-Finding Mission in accordance with its mandate.

However, Mr Chairman, we must also keep reminding ourselves that the complete elimination of the threat of the use of chemical weapons would remain far from reality until all the remaining States not Party accede to the Convention. We, therefore, once again call upon these states to join the convention without further delay and preconditions.



Pakistan strongly believes that the destruction of all chemical weapons is the fundamental objective of this Organisation. We urge all possessor States Parties to make every effort to honour their commitments and extend all possible cooperation to the OPCW in this regard.

We attach great importance to the provisions of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance. We believe that only greater investment in this area will generate stronger support for the overall goals of the Convention. This is a reality. It does not need new rationales or justifications. Similarly, only a better implementation of obligations under the Convention to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes, will serve the long term objectives of the Convention.

Pakistan's unwavering support for the Convention is rooted in its comprehensive and non-discriminatory approach to disarmament. We therefore fully support all efforts that will keep the Organisation strong and effective. While it is important that the OPCW must continue to be provided with the necessary resources by the participating countries to enable the Organisation to fulfil its responsibilities effectively; it is also essential that the Secretariat does all it can to ensure that optimal value is derived from the financial resources at its disposal and that the priorities and vision of the Organisation are fully reflected in resource distribution.

Pakistan fully supports and appreciates various initiatives and actions taken by the Director-General and his team to make OPCW a more efficient, transparent, effective and accountable Organisation. We believe that the Budget and Administration Committee has done a commendable job in highlighting various issues which need to be addressed, to improve the efficiency of the Organisation. It is important that activities of the various organs of the OPCW are integrated well so as to avoid duplication and wastage of resources.

Mr Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to once again assure the Council that my delegation would approach this session with considerable optimism and positivity, and it is our hope that the constructive spirit of consensus would continue to preserve the success of this session.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the OPCW.

- - - 0 - - -