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PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT BY MR SHOAIB SARWAR
DEPUTY-PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Distinguished guests,

First of all, I thank the Director-General for his comprehensive and useful statement. I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Director-General and his team at the Technical Secretariat for all the good work that they have continuously been doing to eradicate the chemical weapons from this world.

While my delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM and China, I would like to briefly offer our views on some of the agenda items.

Pakistan is extremely concerned about findings of the third report of the Fact-Finding Mission which have confirmed the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic. It is for the first time since the Chemical Weapons Convention came into force, that chemical weapons have been used. Pakistan remains opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone and under any circumstances and finds it reprehensible that chemical weapons could still be used in the 21st century. Pakistan believes that perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable for their actions. If perpetrators of such crimes are not held accountable for their actions, it will put the credibility of the Chemical Weapons Convention at risk and will increase the likelihood of the use of chemical weapons in the future.

We must keep reminding ourselves that 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 any 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.

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.

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