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PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOAZZAM AHMAD KHAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW AT THE
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

First of all, I would like to welcome you back to the Chair. I am confident that under your able leadership, this session will lead to a successful conclusion. In this endeavour, please rest assured of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I would also like to compliment the Director-General for his comprehensive and detailed report on the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

While my delegation fully 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 offer our views on some of the agenda items.

Pakistan deeply appreciates the work done by the ABAF, the Technical Secretariat and all the delegates in preparing the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016. While we fully support all the efforts to make the OPCW a more efficient organisation, we strongly believe that adequate resources must be provided to the Technical Secretariat to achieve the objectives and purpose of this Organisation. The External Auditor in the recent audit report has given some very useful recommendations to the Secretariat for making this Organisation more efficient and robust. We hope that the Technical Secretariat will do its utmost to implement those recommendations.

We believe that the Technical Secretariat should continue to attract the best talent for all available vacancies to work efficiently and to achieve the highest professional standards. However, it is equally important that the established criterion of equitable geographical distribution, particularly for senior executive positions, is also given due weight.

Pakistan remains fully committed to the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and continues to actively and constructively participate in OPCW's work. Recently, we organised a National Seminar on Chemical Safety and Security in Islamabad which was also attended by a senior OPCW representative. Earlier, Pakistan had also organised, in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, the first ever Regional Electronic Declarations workshop and three International Basic and one Regional Advanced Assistance and Protection courses in Islamabad. Another Advanced International Assistance and Protection course is being organised in November this year.



We look forward to the visit of the Director-General to Pakistan next month and hope that his visit will strengthen the existing close cooperation between Pakistan and the Technical Secretariat.

Pakistan attaches great importance to the provisions of the Convention relating to international cooperation and assistance, particularly the effective implementation of Article XI. We believe that greater focus in these areas will generate stronger support to achieve the overall goals of the Convention. Only effective implementation of obligations for the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes will serve the long term objectives of the Convention.

Pakistan welcomes the OPCW's initiative to setup an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and assures the Secretariat that it will extend all possible support for this endeavour.

Pakistan welcomes the significant progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons and the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities. Pakistan also takes note of the work done so far by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and looks forward to receiving its next reports. Pakistan also takes note of the Director-General's Note regarding the establishment of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). We hope that the JIM will conduct its mission in an objective, impartial and comprehensive manner.

Pakistan is strongly 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. We believe that perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable.

We are concerned about the recent reports regarding the possible use of chemical weapons in Iraq and strongly believe that such reports must be thoroughly investigated. In this regard, Pakistan notes the decision of the Director-General to send a team of experts to Iraq. However, here we also need to keep reminding ourselves that until and unless all the remaining States not Party announce their accession to the Convention, the objective to achieve complete elimination of the threat of use of chemical weapons would remain far from reality. We therefore, once again, call upon these states to join the Convention without further delay and preconditions. In this respect, we welcome the decision of Myanmar and Angola to accede to the Convention.

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

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

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