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BANGLADESH

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MR SHEIK MOHAMMED BELAL PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Chairperson of the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council, Ambassador Odette Melono, Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Distinguished delegates, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first to extend to Your Excellency Ambassador Odette Melono our warm welcome as the Chair of the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council. We are confident that under your able guidance, the conduct of business of this session will come to a successful conclusion.

I also take the opportunity to register our deep appreciation to the Director-General H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his statement and innovative and outstanding leadership to make the OPCW befitting for tomorrow and beyond. I wish to commend the members of the Technical Secretariat for their dedication and hard work.

I further take the opportunity to express our sincere thanks to the States Parties of the OPCW for their support in bringing back Bangladesh as a member of the Executive Council for the term 2016 to 2018 after a gap of 12 years.

My delegation endorses and fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Dr Alireza Jahangiri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the OPCW, on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Bangladesh, as an original signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention, is firmly committed to the aspirations of the OPCW in ridding the world of chemical weapons. Bangladesh deeply appreciates the near universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and urges the remaining States that are not parties to the Convention to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest. As the leading contributor to the UN Peacekeeping Operations across the world, Bangladesh deeply values her sacrifice and contributions to world peace. In this spirit, Bangladesh remains eager to contribute to the OPCW as a member of the Executive Council and beyond. We are happy to mention that Bangladesh, in her humble way, is going to organise the Chemical Safety and Security Summit in Dhaka in October this year. We deeply appreciate the OPCW for facilitating and supporting the summit.

Bangladesh reaffirms that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon



anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention and all norms of international law. We also feel that all chemical weapons must be destroyed at the earliest and we urge all the possessor States to expedite their destruction processes.

Perhaps the OPCW's history will remain untold if I fail to appreciate the global consensus against chemical weapons in Syria. Such activities, despite a multitude of challenges, brought about some remarkable achievements. Bangladesh hopes to see an earlier implementation of OPCW's on-going missions in Syria.

We welcome the States Parties' commitment to promote peaceful uses of chemistry as obligated under Article XI. We urge all the stakeholders to ensure the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, scientific and technical information for the peaceful uses of chemistry. Bangladesh welcomes the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat to enhance the implementation of Article XI and urges all for a systematic approach to the full and effective implementation of Article XI taking into due consideration of the needs of the developing countries.

Bangladesh attaches great importance to education and outreach programmes and welcomes the establishment of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. We look forward to enhanced awareness about the Convention.

The OPCW has achieved tremendous success since the Convention came into force in 1997 by dint of excellent leadership and the unwavering support of the States Parties. With regard to the future priorities, we welcome the decision made by the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on the establishment of a working group to discuss and formulate a document on the future priorities of the OPCW to be adopted at the Fourth Review Conference. Bangladesh believes that the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons should remain the priority focus of the OPCW.

Bangladesh is committed to the full implementation of the Convention and believes that the States Parties lacking capacity and capability should get appropriate assistance for enabling them for the full implementation of the Convention.

Bangladesh remains committed to world peace and to the power and supremacy of diplomacy over conflict under the leadership of our Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. We wish to work with you to bolster multilateralism towards furthering disarmament efforts. More importantly, we would like to work with you for innovations so that humanity could harness its immense resources, especially those of its scientists and industry, to ensure chemical weapons remain a scourge of the past. We look forward to achieving our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council and published on the OPCW website and extranet.

I thank you, Madam Chairperson.