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PAKISTAN

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

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, let me congratulate you on your assumption of responsibilities as Chairperson of the Council. My delegation is confident that under your able leadership, the Executive Council will continue to perform its crucial role to advance the objectives of the Convention. To this end, please rest assured of the full cooperation and support of my delegation.

I would also like to thank Director-General Ahmet Üzümcü for his comprehensive and detailed report on the activities of the Organisation. May I also take this opportunity to commend the Director-General for his outstanding stewardship of the OPCW and his handling of very complex and intricate issues confronting the Organisation.

While we fully associate ourselves with the statement made on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China by Ambassador of Iran, Dr Ali-Raza-Jahangiri, I would like to share Pakistan's views on issues that we believe are critical and require our close attention.

Pakistan welcomes the progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons and the destruction of the chemical weapons productions facilities. We have, however, also taken note of the findings of the Director-General's report on the outcome of the consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic regarding its initial declarations. The report highlights the fact that many outstanding issues continue to remain unresolved. We urge the Syrian Arab Republic to work closely with and extend full cooperation to the OPCW in resolving all pending issues in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention and the decisions made by all the policy-making organs.

We have repeatedly condemned the continuous use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the resultant killings of several innocent civilians. We find such acts totally reprehensible and completely contrary to global legal norms and standards. We believe that perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable.

Pakistan has also repeatedly expressed its concerns about the threat of chemical weapons falling into the hands of non-State actors. In principle, we fully support all efforts and initiatives that aim to strengthen the international legal framework to hold non-State actors



accountable. However, we believe that there needs to be more discussion among the States Parties to build consensus about the best way forward in this regard.

Pakistan remains fully committed to the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and continues to actively and constructively participate in the OPCW's work. In line with our unwavering commitment to these objectives, Pakistan continues to regularly conduct basic and advanced regional and international assistance and protection courses. The Fifth International Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection was successfully held in Islamabad from 16 to 20 November 2015, and was attended by 24 participants from 18 States Parties. This year, Pakistan intends to hold the Sixth Advanced Course on Assistance and Protection from 14 to 18 November. We hope that as in previous years, participants from many States will benefit from this course.

My delegation attaches high priority to the Convention's provisions relating to international cooperation and assistance as well as peaceful uses of chemistry. Pakistan believes that only greater focus in these areas and effective implementation of Article XI will generate stronger support to achieve the overall goals of the Convention. We urge all States Parties to fully implement their obligations for the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes to serve the long term objectives of the Convention.

Pakistan is concerned about the continued precarious financial liquidity of the OPCW. As it is mainly due to the some States Parties not fulfilling their financial obligations to the OPCW, we urge those States Parties to pay their dues urgently.

In order to further increase the transparency and improve financial management, we strongly urge the OPCW's Technical Secretariat to fully implement the various recommendations made by the External Auditor and Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters in this regard.

We also 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.

In all probability, this is the last time that I will be addressing the OPCW's Executive Council as Pakistan's Permanent Representative. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the Director-General, to all my colleagues here, as well as the staff of the Technical Secretariat for their valuable support and cooperation in the discharge of my duties. I am leaving with a great sense of satisfaction in terms of what we all have been able to achieve in the last three years through our determined and collective efforts. I was particularly pleased that it was during my time here that we could organise a very productive and successful visit of the Director-General to Pakistan. I sincerely hope that this Organisation will continue to work with a sense of mission in making our world free of chemical weapons. I would particularly like to express my deep gratitude to my group mates for being enormously generous in accommodating my demands and requests, often at short notice. As your coordinator, I greatly enjoyed and benefited from your cooperation and guidance. I will be leaving in a couple of weeks for my new assignment and hope that my replacement, Pakistan's new Permanent Representative, will also receive your same support and cooperation.

In conclusion, I would like to assure the Council that my delegation will constructively participate in its deliberations. It is our hope that the spirit of consensus will continue to preserve the success of this session. I thank you and would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council.

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