



OPCW

Executive Council

Thirty-Third Meeting
27 September and 3 October 2013

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PAKISTAN

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR MOAZZAM AHMAD KHAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW
AT THE THIRTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

Thank you for reconvening the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Executive Council, and for providing us with an opportunity to speak on the very important issue of the destruction of chemical weapons in Syria.

Mr Chairman,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations Mission to Investigate Alleged Uses of Chemical Weapons in Syria, Pakistan strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons in that country. We believe that the use of these weapons by anyone under any circumstances is a reprehensible act and runs contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. It constitutes a serious violation of international law and is a threat to international peace and security. We also believe that the perpetrators of these crimes must be held accountable and brought to justice.

Mr Chairman,

Pakistan welcomes the decision of the Syrian Government to accede to the Convention. We hope that Syria will be able to contribute positively to the object and purpose of the Convention and that it will cooperate fully with the OPCW. We see this important decision as a significant step towards achieving the universality of the Convention, and call upon all other States not Party to accede to the Convention without further delay or any preconditions.

My delegation commends the efforts made by the United States and the Russian Federation to seek a peaceful resolution of the Syrian chemical weapons issue. We also appreciate the role their respective delegations played here in the adoption of a consensus decision by the Executive Council on the issue.

Mr Chairman, this Council also deserves commendation for, yet again, demonstrating to the international community that it can resolve difficult and complex issues by consensus and in a transparent manner.



Mr Chairman,

We fully understand that we are dealing with an exceptional situation in Syria that requires an exceptional response and measures. However, as also noted in the Executive Council's decision, we must reiterate that these special measures would not constitute any precedent for the future.

My delegation would also like to emphasise that overseeing the destruction of chemical weapons and their production facilities is the responsibility of the OPCW. To ensure the integrity of the destruction process and to implement the Executive Council's decision both in letter and spirit, it is enormously important that this Organisation plays a pivotal role and that the whole process of destruction is carried out strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention. Pakistan stands ready to extend its full cooperation and support to the Director-General and the OPCW in this regard.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Thirty-Third Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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