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**AFGHANISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ENAYATULLAH NABIEL  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF  
AFGHANISTAN TO THE OPCW AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am pleased to congratulate you Mr Chairperson on your election to the chair of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties. We are confident that under your able leadership the Conference will successfully conclude its session. Let me assure you of the full support and cooperation of my delegation. Allow me to also commend your predecessor Ambassador Paul Arkwright for his skilful stewardship of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties. Availing this opportunity I would like to congratulate the vice chairs, newly elected Bureau members and other officers and wish them success.

Earlier this year, to commemorate the fifteenth anniversary of the Convention, a high-level meeting under the very important themes “Fifteen Years of the CWC: Celebrating Success, Committing to the Future” took place at the United Nations, New York. The participants at the highest level reaffirmed their commitments to join their efforts towards full implementation of the Convention and to support the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). Such a strong show of support for implementation of the Convention is a clear manifestation of international community resolve to work together towards elimination of chemical weapons and preventing its re-emergence.

The hard work and dedication of the Technical Secretariat under the wise and skilful leadership of Ambassador Üzümcü, as well as the States Parties adherence to the letter and spirit of the Convention, resulted in an addition to the reduction of a high percentage of the chemical weapons, it also laid the ground to prevent the re-emergence of deadly chemical weapons. It is a matter of celebration to see that in fifteen years after coming into force of the Convention, a relatively short time, 188 States ratified the Convention, expressed their commitment to support the OPCW and to use every means in their possession to prevent the horror and untold pain and suffering caused by the use of chemical weapons. This success showed that multilateralism and working together to save humanity from the scourge of weapons of mass destruction is achievable.



It's inspiring to witness that over 75% of the chemical stockpiles are destroyed. It is encouraging to see that the possessing States have shown their determination and reaffirmed their commitments to destroy the remaining stockpiles of chemical weapons. However, taking into consideration realities in the ground and the complexities we are facing in the area of security, as well as a surge of terrorism in various parts of the world, we must be vigilant and take all appropriate measures to prevent re-emergence of chemical weapons and to deny terrorist and non-State actors access to chemicals of concern or the means to produce chemical weapons.

Developing and less developed countries are working hard to build-up and strengthen their capacity to fully fulfil their obligation under the Convention, as well as to protect their citizens from harm of chemical weapons through improvement of protective capacity, including measures such as preventing the chemical weapons entry to and transit through their territories. However, detecting illegal toxic chemical agents and/or weapons, requires detection equipment and highly trained personnel, which needs to be given serious consideration and support. Furthermore, to assist the countries in need to counter the threats of the use of chemical weapons, it is important that the OPCW maintain sufficient levels of readiness to provide timely, adequate, and effective assistance and protection to the States Parties in situations of use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons against them.

While it is great to see that the number of States Parties have reached 188 countries, we should be aware of the fact that the threat of chemical weapons is not totally diminished. To have a world free of chemical weapons and to attain universality, we invite those States that are not a member yet to join the Convention and help the efforts of OPCW and the States Parties in achieving the lofty objectives of the Convention.

The international cooperation and transfer of know-how by the States Parties that enjoy the advanced capabilities of the developing countries, particularly to the less developed countries, is an important instrument in paving the way towards full and effective, implementation of the Convention. We believe it would be in the interest of all of us that the States Parties in implementing the Convention should also be conscious of the positive role they can play in enhancing the technological development of other States, including the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. In this context, my delegation associates itself with statement made on behalf of Non-Aligned Movement and China by H.E. M.M. Akhundzadeh, Deputy Minister for International Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic Iran and encourages the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to enhance their efforts towards the implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the State Parties at its Sixteenth Session on the implementation of Article XI.

Before concluding my statement allow me to extend my delegation's congratulation to H.E. Prof. Ruthie C. Rono Ambassador of Kenya, Chairperson of the Open Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T) and H.E. Nasima Baghli, Ambassador of Algeria, Chairperson of the Open Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the Third Review Conference, for their excellent stewardship.

In conclusion, we are pleased with the initiatives taken by the Technical Secretariat under the leadership of the Ambassador Üzümcü to enhance the effectiveness of the Organisation through structural reform and careful management of the budget. We hope this Conference and the coming Third Review Conference, through providing clear guidance to the OPCW on

its priorities, goals and objectives help this Organisation to remain relevant and to be ready to address the challenges it would be facing in the future.

In closing, may I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference.

Thank you for your attention.

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