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REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MRS RETNO L. P. MARSUDI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDONESIA TO THE
OPCW AT THE SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,

Allow me to join other distinguished delegations in extending our congratulations to you in assuming the Chairmanship the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that given your extensive experience and wisdom, you will successfully guide the Conference in achieving tangible results. Our congratulations also go to the newly elected bureau members of this Session.

We would also like to take this opportunity to commend your predecessor, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland for leading last year's Sixteenth Session.

Indonesia associates itself with the statements made by the Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran who spoke on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

This Conference is held approaching our preparation for the Third Review Conference of the Chemical Weapon Convention in 2013. It is therefore imperative for all of us, including my delegation, to see clearly on where we are and what needs to be done in the future. We have achieved a lot in the last 15 years, however much more needs to be done to fully implement the Convention and make this planet a safer and more secure place to live.

The Convention has become the fastest-growing multilateral disarmament instrument. Its membership now covers around 98% of the world's population. Only a few countries remain outside the regime, but nonetheless, they would be a barrier to the complete elimination of chemical weapons. Therefore work on universality should be continued with perseverance. We commend the OPCW and all States Parties for their efforts to promote the universality of the Convention. We are of the view that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full universality of the Convention.

The Convention indeed represents an unparalleled success in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. However, we remain concerned by the fact that now, after the passing of the extended deadline and despite the best efforts of possessor States to meet their deadlines, stockpiles of chemical weapons remain. While acknowledging that 78% of the chemical



weapons stockpiles have been destroyed to date, we continue to urge possessor States to take all necessary measures to complete the destruction of all remaining chemical weapon stockpiles and facilities in the shortest time possible with clear planned completion dates under increased transparency measures and enhanced reporting.

My delegation stresses that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons under strict verification regime should continue to be accorded top priority until their complete destruction is attained.

My delegation recalls the importance of the provisions in Article XI of the Convention and emphasises that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is essential to the realisation of the purpose of the Convention.

Indonesia would like to urge all States Parties to ensure the removal of and to avoid the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the commitment to transfer technology, material, and equipment of peaceful purposes in the chemical field. Furthermore, Indonesia stresses the need to remove any discriminatory restrictions that affect the Convention's long-term viability.

We also would like to reaffirm that the implementation of Article X, makes an important contribution in countering possible threats of the use of chemical weapons. It is indeed crucial for the OPCW to maintain a high level readiness in being able to provide States Parties with adequate and effective assistance and protection in a timely manner in the event of use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons. We welcome initiatives by the OPCW, including those to facilitate with expertise advise, development and implementation of training modules for protection, and organisation of international assistance courses and trainings.

While we acknowledge that the OPCW is not a counter-terrorism organisation, however given the possibility of non-State actors seeking to produce or acquire chemical weapons or toxic agent remains evident, we believe there is room for contribution by the OPCW in this field. We therefore highlight the imperative of international cooperation in the context of the Convention to build States' capacity for preventing terrorists in acquiring and/or using chemical materials in its act of terrorism and to ask the OPCW to develop guidelines for the necessary cooperation and assistance in the event of terrorist attack using chemical weapons.

As a State Party to the Convention, Indonesia reaffirms its steadfast commitment to the Convention and will continue to work on the implementation of the Convention's provisions.

In pursuant to Article VII, the Indonesian government is working to complete a draft law on chemical materials, which would supplement Law no. 9 of 2008 on the use of chemical materials and the prohibition of chemical materials as weapons. Both laws would further strengthen and solidify our national legislation on regulating chemical substance in all its aspects, including the issue of chemical safety and security.

In addition, the Indonesian Government continues to disseminate information on the significance of the Convention and its implementation to all our national stakeholders. It is our belief that the full implementation of the Convention can only be attained when all relevant stakeholders, including the civil society, have the understanding on the object and

purpose of the Convention. Civil society serves as valuable partners of the Government in the implementation of the Convention.

With regards to Article VI, Indonesia regularly receives inspection to its national chemical industries with a positive result. In this connection, we will continue working with the Technical Secretariat in accordance with the Convention provisions.

In the context of Article X, for the purpose of increasing national capacity of States Parties in responding to the use and/or the threat of use of chemical weapons, with the assistance of the Secretariat, Indonesia is preparing to conduct a regional table-top exercise to be held in Jakarta in 2013.

In a wider context, consistent with our principle position in the disarmament and non-proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction, Indonesia had recently ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty in December last year and deposited its instrument of ratification on 6 February 2012.

In closing I would like to reiterate my delegation's readiness to engage constructively with all States Parties during this Conference and to do its utmost to make this Conference a success.

We request that this statement be included as an official document of the Conference.

I thank you.

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