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**PAKISTAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MOAZZAM AHMAD KHAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN TO THE OPCW AT THE  
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, let me convey to you my warm felicitations on your election as Chairperson of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that under your able leadership and guidance, this session will lead to a successful conclusion. In this endeavour, please rest assured of the full cooperation of my delegation.

I would also like to convey our appreciation to the outgoing Chairperson Ambassador Dr. Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of the Republic of Iraq for leading the Eighteenth Session of the Conference in a very professional and skilful manner.

May I also take this opportunity to compliment the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his comprehensive and detailed report on the activities of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, and to express appreciation for the leadership he has provided and the efforts he has made in guiding the Organisation through its most challenging times.

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

Pakistan remains opposed to the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances. We have repeatedly condemned the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic and the killing of so many innocent civilians as we find it totally reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. While Pakistan notes the progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons, we are deeply concerned about the conclusions of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission which has confirmed the systematic and repeated use of toxic chemicals as a weapon in the Syrian Arab Republic. We believe that the perpetrators of such heinous crimes must be held accountable for their actions. Therefore, Pakistan fully supports the continuation of the Fact-Finding Mission in accordance with its mandate.

Pakistan regards the Convention as a comprehensive and non-discriminatory disarmament instrument, and it strongly believes that it is worth every effort to preserve and strengthen this



regime. Its existence and near universal acceptance raises hope that a day might come when all disarmament goals will be pursued in the same manner and that the entitlement to equal security will be restored to all.

We can take satisfaction from the fact that the Convention is now supported politically and legally by 190 countries of the world. However, the complete elimination of the threat of the use of chemical weapons would remain far from reality until all the remaining States not Party accede to the Convention. Acceptance of the Convention by 99% of the global population is a significant milestone, but complete universality of the Convention is highly desirable, in fact critical, to ensure the safety and security of the world against the threat of chemical weapons. We therefore, once again, call upon these States to join the Convention without further delay and preconditions.

Pakistan believes that the destruction of chemical weapons worldwide is the key objective of the Organisation. We therefore strongly urge all the possessor States to continue the destruction process in accordance with the relevant decision of the Conference of the States Parties and within the time frame announced by them.

We believe that the balance of rights and obligations in the Convention represents a carefully managed consensus. Despite the Convention being the most successful disarmament treaty, there is work to be done in several areas.

Domestic implementation of the Convention's obligations has been a subject of increasing attention for reasons of legitimate merit. However, we take an objective and sympathetic view of this issue, especially since most of the countries that have not been able to fulfil the requirements of the Convention, are developing countries faced with competing challenges and lack of necessary resources. We consider the initiatives taken by the Director-General in this regard as encouraging.

Pakistan takes its responsibility to implement the Convention very seriously. This is evident from our national legislation that covers not only the Convention, but also our related international obligations. Pakistan has fulfilled its national obligations on the Convention implementation measures and our National Authority (NA) is fully involved in all issues related to the Convention.

We are also one of the first countries to show our concrete support to the National Authority Mentorship Programme, and are willing to assist other States Parties in preparing necessary domestic legislations as required by the Convention.

In line with our efforts to support other regional states, in 2012 Pakistan announced to establish a regional assistance and protection centre. Since then it has conducted four international courses on Assistance and Protection and a workshop on Electronic Declaration. We are now planning to hold the fifth assistance and protection course in 2015 and look forward to receiving participants from all the States Parties.

My delegation attaches high priority to the provisions of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance. Pakistan believes that the implementation of the Convention should be carried out in such a way that the economic and technological activities of the States Parties, not prohibited under the Convention, are not adversely affected. Pakistan fully supports the goal of enhanced international cooperation in economic and scientific fields.

We believe that investment in this field will renew the interest of a large number of States Parties in the Convention in the years ahead. Similarly, only a better implementation of obligations under the Convention to facilitate the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes, will serve the long-term objective of the Convention. There is a need for allocation of adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives within the Technical Secretariat. It is important to follow up the recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding implementation of Article XI.

We urge all the States Parties to facilitate exchange of chemicals, equipment and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

In conclusion, I would once again like to reaffirm Pakistan's unwavering support for the core objectives of the Convention and the work of the OPCW.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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