

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement of His Excellency Mr. Mizanur Rahman
Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the
Kingdom of the Netherlands to the
Second Review Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW
08 April, 2008**

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh delegation joins the previous speakers in warmly congratulating you on your well deserved election. This session of the Second Review Conference has before it a lengthy and substantive agenda. We are confident that under your able and dynamic leadership the deliberations would reach fruitful outcome.

We would also like to convey our compliments to the Director-General and his able colleagues at the Secretariat for their untiring work.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh delegation associates itself fully with the statement made by Cuba on behalf of NAM and China. The Second Review Conference is taking place at a particularly important point of time. At the moment, the global attention is focused on finding the best ways and means in which the major threats to our individual and collective security could be addressed effectively. It is thus, imperative that we continue to work constructively to secure global peace in all its dimensions. There seems no other better way to achieve this than to work relentlessly for the cause of complete and total disarmament. The unabated arms race and proliferation of weapons regimes of different types pose a major threat to global peace and security. There is a definite need to roll them back and eventually eliminate them totally. From this perspective, the full implementation of the Convention on the Chemical Weapons that would ensure the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction need to be pursued relentlessly with unwavering seriousness. The Convention is at the door step of universalisation. We are however, reminded of the ultimate objective of the Convention on Chemical Weapons i.e. to rid the world of this category of weapons forever. While our delegation appreciates the progress made so far, we hope that the remaining tasks will also be accomplished without any departure from the agreed time schedule for the fulfilment of various goals enshrined in the CWC.

Mr. Chairman,

We subscribe to the observations made by the spokesperson of the NAM countries and China on the overall performance of the OPCW. We would also like to stress on the importance of the international cooperation and assistance programmes. Bangladesh greatly values the assistance and cooperation it has received so far from the organization in capacity building and exchange of knowledge and expertise. We would welcome any programmes that will further promote international cooperation in transfer of technology, material and equipments for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical and removal of any discriminatory restrictions.

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh would like to urge for more resource made available to the developing States Parties in assisting them in the fulfilling the obligations under the CWC. Nonetheless, we would like to inform the Conference that notwithstanding our resource constraint, at the national level, Bangladesh has taken a series of steps during the last years to fulfil her treaty obligations. Our national legislation to give full effect to the Convention is already been finalized. The Bangladesh Government is also working to further strengthen the concerned National Authority dealing with the Convention. We would deeply appreciate the continued support and assistance from the OPCW to our National Authority as it strives to build up and strengthen its capacity. Bangladesh is also very keen to be associated with the activities of the OPCW through adequate placement of competent Bangladeshi nationals in the Secretariat itself.

Mr. Chairman,

The Bangladesh delegation would like to conclude by reiterating that the commitment of Bangladesh to the CWC is unequivocal and it is in line with her total commitment to general and comprehensive disarmament. It may be mentioned that being a non-possessor state, Bangladesh has formed a sub – committee on Inspection which held so far four meetings to take preparations for the inspections of declared facilities in Bangladesh by the OPCW Inspection Team. OPCW is likely to conduct inspection in Bangladesh this year. Bangladesh declared six fertilizer factories that deal none of the schedule I/II/III chemicals, but were declared under the category OCPF. A 8-member inspection team also conducted a mock inspection at Zia Fertilizer Company Limited (ZFCL) on 9th January 2008 to have an on – the – ground experience of an inspection. To sensitize the six fertilizer factories of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, which are declared facilities in Bangladesh, OPCW inspection can be conducted anytime this year.

Mr. Chairman,

Bangladesh was one of the very first countries to sign the CWC in Paris in 1993 and is among the early countries to ratify. Bangladesh never had Chemical Weapons nor have any plan to develop them in future. It would be our continuous endeavour to see to it that the successful implementation of this Convention becomes the precursor to significant progress in elimination of other types of weapons of mass destruction that continue to pose threats to peace, security and future of mankind.

Thank you very much Mr. Chairman and thank you all.