



**Statement by H.E Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar,
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW
29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties
(25-29 November 2024)**

Mr. Chairperson,

Pakistan welcomes you and assures you of our full support in successfully steering this conference.

I was in your position a few hours ago, let me express my sincere thanks to all the States Parties, the General Committee, Director General, Deputy Director General and the Technical Secretariat for all the support that I received as chair of the 28th CSP.

We thank the Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias for his report on the Technical Secretariat's activities. We appreciate Ambassador Fernando Arias for his leadership and meticulously leading the important work of the organization. We also commend the good work done by the Technical Secretariat.

Director General, we assure you and your team of Pakistan's full support.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) & China.

Mr. Chair,

The continuing tragic situation in Gaza has dangerously escalated to other countries in the region. The innocent civilians including women and children continue to be targeted by brutal Israeli aggression. We call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire; cessation of brutalities against the innocent civilians; and quick and ample delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected people.

Mr. Chair,

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) is a success story in our joint efforts for arms control and disarmament. However, its implementation would remain an aspiration till universality is achieved. The current global geopolitical situation, selective approach, and a world faced with polycrises is threatening to moving us farther apart than uniting us.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan reaffirms its commitment to the complete and effective implementation of the Convention. Our dedication to the CWC stems from our belief in the Convention's value for regional and global peace and security.

Mr. Chair,

Pakistan is proud to be among the State parties who have adopted legislation regarding CWC. We have a robust national implementation mechanism and a sub-regional Assistance and Protection Centre serves as a center of excellence in the region. In addition, Pakistan also has an OPCW designated laboratory.

Pakistan has been actively involved in verification, inspection and capacity building activities to ensure compliance with the highest standards.

Mr. Chair,

I would also like to emphasize the importance of capacity building and technical assistance for national implementation especially for the global south. In times like these, they also become confidence building measures to strengthen the treaty.

Mr. Chair,

Earlier this year, the Executive Council visited China where we witnessed the progress in the destruction of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACWs) by Japan in China. I thank the governments of China and Japan for organizing the useful visit, and appreciate the Government of China for their warm hospitality. We commend China and Japan for the work being done and hope that the process remains on track, and it is completed within the agreed framework.

Mr. Chair,

We have also noted the developments on the Syrian Chemical Weapons program and the way forward is through continued dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. Chair,

The hiring of staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible is part of the Convention. A more inclusive, geographically balanced Technical Secretariat is important for building a secretariat with a global perspective and capacities.

We welcome the focus on Emerging Technologies, especially the Artificial Intelligence. We appreciate efforts by the DG in initiating discussions on emerging technologies.

I would also like to thank the Government of Morocco and the OPCW for organizing the ‘Global Conference on the role of Artificial Intelligence in advancing the implementation of the CWC’ held in Rabat last month. We profusely thank Morocco for its hospitality.

The emerging technologies are reshaping the global landscape and offer unprecedented opportunities but they also introduce new risks. The fine line between peaceful use and potential misuse requires our collective understanding and action. We look forward to further discussions and would be happy to be part of future initiatives in this regard.

Mr. Chair,

The growing lack of consensus within our organization and our decision making is creating a divided organization. Consensus is at the heart of international arms control and disarmament, and moving away from this time-honored tradition would yield further fragmentation.

In conclusion, a personal note, I would soon be completing my current assignment in the Hague and take this opportunity to thank all the delegations and colleagues for their support, guidance and friendship.

I thank you Chair