

**STATEMENT OF MR. AIZAZ KHAN, CHARGE D' AFFAIRES
A.I/DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
TO THE OPCW, AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director General,

Distinguished Ambassador and Delegates,

We welcome you back at the helm of the 93rd Session of the Executive Council and assure you of Pakistan's cooperation and support in your work. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador of Azerbaijan on behalf of the States Parties belonging to the Non-Aligned Movement and China. I thank the Director General for his opening statement. His report on various activities of the Secretariat is, as usual, comprehensive and provides much food for thought.

Mr. Chairman,

Disarmament is the centre piece of the Chemical Weapons Convention and it is very encouraging to see State Parties still in possession of stockpiles of chemical weapons striving their best to remove these deadly weapons from their arsenal.

With regards to the elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme, this council awaits the result of the Sixth Round of Inspections held in November 2019. We support the continuing engagement between Syria and the Secretariat. We hope that it would lead to resolution of all outstanding matters.

My delegation has been supportive of the early implementation of the Enterprise Resource Managing System, however now due to the delay in the implementation of the core system of record (SoR), the previously envisioned cutover date early in the first quarter of 2020 is projected to be in the second quarter. The Technical Secretariat is urged to take due cognizance of these regular delays and set a deadline for the implementation of the Enterprise Resource Managing System.

Recently, Pakistan made financial contribution to a special OPCW Trust Fund to support the construction of a new facility, the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology (“ChemTech Centre”). Our contribution to the ChemTech Centre project demonstrates our support for research and development in cutting-edge technologies to make the world a safer place. It will strengthen our collective security by building further capacity to perform core tasks such as verification and inspections.

We have also read the recommendations given at the 47th session of ABAF and the DG’s comments over it. It is expected that the TS will follow the advise of the ABAF in order to further improve handling of its administrative and financial matters.

With regards to the draft decision entitled ‘OPCW ABAF-Rules of Procedure’ proposed by Bulgaria, Canada and others, Pakistan has its reservations on certain elements of the draft proposal and would urge sponsoring countries of the draft proposal to conduct further negotiations to reach a consensus document.

Mr. Chairman,

For the effective continuity of this organization, consensus is the key. Among other important matters, the draft decision on CNS-acting chemicals is also high on agenda this year. While deliberations on this matter continue, we would like to urge all the States Parties to move ahead in the spirit of consensus to reach a reasonable conclusion. We believe that although in principle, the CNS acting chemicals should be brought into the ambit of CWC, however, the sponsor states should try to forge consensus among all member states.

Here, I would also like to take this opportunity to facilitate Mr Gareth Davies, who has succeeded to the post of External Auditor of the OPCW, in accordance with Regulation 13.2 of the OPCW Financial Regulations.

Mr. Chairman,

We request that this statement be considered as an official document of this session and published on the OPCW’s website and external server.

I Thank You~

