



**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar,**  
**Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW,**  
**at the 106<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council (09-12 July 2024)**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I would start by congratulating you, Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral of Ecuador, on assuming the chair of the Executive Council. My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation in your work. We wish you success.

I also avail this opportunity to commend Ambassador Lucian Fătu, our previous chair, for his able leadership in steering the Executive Council.

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

We thank the Director General Fernando Arias for his report on the Technical Secretariat's activities. We appreciate Ambassador Fernando Arias for his hard work, leadership and meticulously leading the important work of the organization. Director General, we assure you of Pakistan's full support.

**Mr. Chair,**

Let me begin by touching upon the continuing tragic situation in Gaza, the international community is failing abjectly in protection of hapless Palestinian civilians against the unabated brutal Israeli aggression. We reiterate our call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire; cessation of brutalities against the innocent Palestinians; quick and ample delivery of humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people.

**Mr. Chair,**

The CWC is a success story in our joint efforts for arms control and disarmament but its implementation would remain an aspiration till universality is achieved. We fear that the current global geopolitical situation and selective

approach is moving us farther away than achieving universal confidence and adherence to the treaty.

**Mr. Chair,**

Pakistan remains committed to the convention and its full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation. We have a robust national implementation mechanism in place and a sub-regional Assistance and Protection Centre which serves as a center of excellence in the region. In addition, Pakistan also has an OPCW designated laboratory.

**Mr. Chair,**

We hope to see a more robust utilization of The Center for Chemistry and Technology (Chemtech center).

We emphasizes 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.

We hope that in line with the convention, especially articles X & XI, the TS would continue with the training and knowledge sharing activities for capacity building to tackle threat of chemical weapons or accidents.

We appreciate the work of OPCW's "Assistance and Protection Branch" under Article X and we reiterate that any changes or review of its training cycles for future needs to be in consultation with the States parties, especially those who have been successfully offering long-standing programs.

**Mr. Chair,**

We commend China and Japan for the work being done to achieve destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China. We look forward to the planned EC visit to China in this regard.

We have also noted the progress made on the Syrian Chemical Weapons program, as evident by the 27<sup>th</sup> round of talks between the DAT and Syrian authorities. My delegation has long maintained that 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. Of late, we have noted some staff in the organization transit immediately after joining the organization. This needs to be carefully looked into because retention of good human resource is also linked to conducive environment and human resource management.

**Mr. Chair,**

We received the Note “Artificial Intelligence and the OPCW: A Meeting with Experts” by the TS. AI is a fast pacing important topic. We look forward to the discussion. As a multilateral institution, it would be important for OPCW to move on any topic including AI in an inclusive and transparent manner and staying loyal to its core mandate i.e. CWC.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I would like to underscore the importance of consensus-based decision making. Consensus is at the heart of international arms control and disarmament negotiations. We have stepped far away from this time-honored tradition which has resulted in a fragmented Organization. Mr. Chair, we live in an increasingly fragmented world and we sincerely hope the success we jointly achieved in CWC will be safeguarded. Our earnest hope is that we revert to consensus in our deliberations & decision making.

In closing, I would like to reaffirm, Pakistan’s continued commitment to the CWC.

I thank you Chair.

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