



**Statement by H.E Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar,  
Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW,  
at the 107<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council (08 - 11 October 2024)**

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation assures you of our full support and cooperation in your work and we wish you success.

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

We thank the Director General Ambassador 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. We also commend the good work done by the Technical Secretariat for the implementation of the CWC.

Director General,

We assure you and your team of Pakistan's full support.

Mr. Chair,

Let me begin by touching upon the continuing tragic situation in Gaza, which has now dangerously escalated to other countries in the region. The Innocent Civilians continue to be targeted unabated. The international community is failing abjectly in protection of hapless Palestinian civilians against the continuing brutal Israeli aggression. We reiterate our call for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire; cessation of brutalities

against the innocent civilians; quick and ample delivery of humanitarian assistance to the affected 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,

On its part, 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. I am happy to share that during the intersessional period between EC-106 and EC – 107, Pakistan hosted various important events related to the CWC. These include:

- Advanced Responsible Chemical Distribution and Trade Conference  
*(Organized in Islamabad from 23-25 July 2024, in collaboration with the US Department of State's office of the Non Proliferation and Disarmament, and CRDF Global)*
- A “Chemical Risk Assessment” workshop  
*(Organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad in collaboration with Sandia National Laboratories, Chemical Engineering Department of the University of Engineering and Technology Lahore, and the US Department of State's chemical security program)*

*And,*

- The National Disaster Management authority (NDMA) of Pakistan organized “National Industrial Disaster Response Simulation Exercise” from 20-21 August 2024.

These exercises and conferences not only reflect Pakistan's commitment to the Chemical Weapons convention, but also speak about our continuous endeavours to promote our national and global networks for preparedness and knowledge sharing.

Mr. Chair,

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

Many of us have recently returned after visiting a few beautiful cities in China where we witnessed the progress in the destruction of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACWs). I thank the Governments of China and Japan for organizing the visit, and appreciate the Government of China for their warm hospitality during our visit.

The destruction of the abandoned chemical weapons is important, not only for the states parties involved in the process, but it also contributes to the Chemical Weapons Convention's ultimate goal of eliminating an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. It is also important because it moves the international community closer to a world free of chemical weapons.

I commend China and Japan for the work being done to achieve destruction of Abandoned Chemical Weapons in China, and hope that the process remains on track, and is completed sooner.

Mr. Chair,

We have also noted the progress made on the Syrian Chemical Weapons program, as evident by the 28th 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.

Mr. Chair,

This time, we would also be discussing “Emerging Technologies” as an agenda item of the EC-107. It is indeed a very important area, and with current conflicts around the world, it has become more relevant than before. 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. Chair,

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