



**Statement by Mr. Jamal Nasir,
the Representative of Pakistan to the OPCW
108th Session of the Executive Council
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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, especially regarding the recent developments on the Syrian Chemical Weapons file. We appreciate DG (OPCW) 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.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, Pakistan calls for a permanent ceasefire and scaling up of humanitarian assistance in Gaza and other Occupied Palestinian Territories. This is essential to mitigate sufferings of the local Palestinian people due to unprecedented loss of lives, property and displacement of hundreds of thousands of innocent civilian Palestinians, caused by indiscriminate use of force by Israeli occupation forces.

Mr. Chairperson,

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.

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 inter-sessional period between EC-107 and EC – 108, Pakistan hosted various important events related to the CWC. These include:

- A National Workshop on Chemical & Bio Safety & Security
- A Seminar on “Needs and Best Practices on Chemical & Bio Safety & Security Management”
- A Course on “Detection and Sampling in an Environment Contaminated by Chemical Warfare Agents” for Asia Region”
- A Course on Implications of AI and other Emerging Technologies on Chem-Bio Threats and Response

Additionally, the National Authority of Pakistan has organized several trainings and capacity building programs for the chemical industries to raise awareness and ensure compliance with the CWC.

These exercises, conferences, and activities 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. Chairperson,

Pakistan has always emphasized 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. In this regard, my delegation would like to appreciate the good work done by the International Cooperation and Assistance Branch in carrying out their mandated work.

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

Mr. Chairperson,

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. Last year's visit to China was very helpful in understanding the on ground situation. We thank the Governments of China and Japan for the opportunity, and hope that the process remains on track, and is completed sooner.

We also look forward to the visit organized by the Permanent Representation of Germany to various ACW destruction related facilities, next week.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Chemical Weapons File has seen a lot of developments during the past couple of months. My delegation appreciates the recent visit of Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias to Damascus on 8 February 2025. This visit has opened avenues for a renewed dialogue with the Syrian interim Government.

We also appreciate the Director General for his continuous efforts to keep the states parties informed about the continuously evolving scenarios. The Director General's letter of 21 February 2025 presents valuable information on this important matter.

We also commend the instrumental role played by the State of Qatar for engagement and opening further prospects for cooperation between the OPCW and the Syrian authorities.

We believe that the way forward for definitively closing the Syrian chemical weapons file is through continued dialogue and cooperation.

Mr. Chairperson,

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. Chairperson,

Emerging Technologies is a very important area, and in the today's world faced with polycrisis, it has become more relevant. We appreciate the steps taken by the Director General and his able team at the TS to keep the organization up to speed on the rapidly changing advancements in this area.

My delegation would also like to appreciate 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", in Rabat last year.

We look forward to further discussion, and would be happy to be part of future initiatives in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to conclude by underscoring the importance of consensus-based decision making. Consensus is at the heart of international arms control and disarmament negotiations. Disregarding this time-honored tradition will only fragment the Organization. In an increasingly fragmented world, we sincerely hope to preserve and safeguard the success we jointly achieved in CWC. Our earnest hope is to follow the principle of consensus in the decision making. Towards this endeavor, Pakistan will continue to play the role of a bridge-builder with reaffirmation of our continued commitment to the CWC.

I thank you Chair
