



PAKISTAN

PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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Statement

by

**Pakistan Delegation
at the
First Committee Thematic Debate
on Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
(68th Session of the UNGA)**

New York, 24 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement made by the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Biological and Chemical Weapons Conventions continue to serve as key constituents of the international security architecture. Together, these Conventions have also strongly reinforced their roles as the international norm and a bulwark against the use of these weapons. Accordingly, these instruments have made an important contribution to the goal of general and complete disarmament.

These success stories reaffirm the vitality and value of treaties negotiated multilaterally on the basis of inclusiveness, good faith and equality, while taking into account the security interests of all states. It is this spirit of cooperative multilateralism that should guide the international community in navigating and addressing new and emerging challenges in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan shares the concerns that, along with the threat of the possible production, acquisition and use of chemical and biological weapons by States, the international community also faces the danger of the production, acquisition and use of such weapons by non-State actors. The slow pace of chemical weapons disarmament and existence of huge quantities of chemical weapons accentuate concerns about the possibility of their falling into terrorist hands. Realizing the full potential of the Convention for international peace and security necessitates early elimination of remaining stockpiles by possessor States. The deplorable use of chemical weapons in Syria highlights such concerns.

While advances in biology offer a range of new tools to address diseases, they have also heightened anxieties on the possibility of non-state actors misusing biological toxins, agents and related materials. Concluding the Verification Protocol to the BWC, negotiated over 8 years, would be a major step in strengthening the BWC and in allaying concerns over bio-defence capabilities of some States.

Full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of these Conventions including export control measures, national physical protection and international assistance as well as capacity building are key tools to prevent non-state actors from acquiring, producing or using these weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan welcomes the successful conclusion of the 3rd Review Conference. The consensus adoption of its outcome documents reflects the continuing importance that States Parties attach to the indispensable role and contribution of the CWC to the international peace and security.

Pakistan also welcomes the endorsement of OPCW's Executive Council decision by the Security Council on chemical disarmament in Syria. The adoption of Security Council resolution 2118 helps pave the way forward including on the political track. Syria's decision to become a party to the CWC and its cooperation with the OPCW are also positive developments. However, the goals of the Convention can only be fully realized when the Convention attains universality. States known to possess chemical weapons must be brought to renouncing and destroying them.

The provisions of the Convention relating to International Cooperation and Assistance are essential to keep a large number of States without chemical industry engaged with the work of the OPCW. Cooperation in the field of assistance and protection provides a platform to a large number of developing countries to improve their capacities against use or threat of use of Chemical Weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the years, Pakistan has interacted closely with and extended full cooperation to the OPCW on a range of activities. In active collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, we have hosted several regional and international capacity building courses in Pakistan. A sub-regional Assistance and Protection Center has been established in Pakistan to serve as center of excellence for countries in the region. Pakistan is also one of the first countries to support the National Authority Mentorship Programme and is closely sharing with another State Party our national experience in implementing the CWC.

Pakistan continues to believe that sensitive technologies and materials must be adequately controlled to ensure their use for peaceful purposes alone. However, this objective cannot justify practices and cartels which hinder legitimate trade in chemicals, equipment and technology among States Parties for demonstrably peaceful purposes. It is vital to restore balance and even-handedness in the implementation of the Convention.

With regard to future priorities of the OPCW, the original intent reflected in the Convention must be adhered to. The Convention establishes a hierarchy of threats that different types of chemicals and related facilities pose to the object and purpose of the Convention. Pakistan stresses the need for advancing the goals of the CWC in a comprehensive, balanced and non-discriminatory manner.

Mr. Chairman,

As a State Party to the BTWC since 1974, Pakistan remains fully committed to its obligations under the Convention. Accordingly, Pakistan has taken a range of comprehensive legal and administrative steps to enhance its bio-safety and bio-security regulations. Through an inter-agency consultative process, a BTWC enabling legislation is under review in the Parliament.

Pakistan views the CBMs as a tool for increasing transparency and building trust and confidence among States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Pakistan has submitted its Confidence Building Measures for the year 2012 based on the revised forms to the

Implementation Support Unit. The CBMs cannot however be a tool for assessing compliance by the States Parties, for which the only method is a legally binding mechanism with verification provisions.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan welcomes the discussion on developments in science and technology related to the Convention as part of a standing agenda item, mandated by Article XII of the Convention. Pakistan accords special importance to full and effective implementation of Article X of the Convention.

The importance of this issue cannot be overstated in terms of efforts to keep the BWC relevant. The malign use of the biosciences can kill humans, animals and plants, trigger wars and disrupt infrastructure. Addressing these issues necessitates continued engagement with the scientific, medical, commercial and educational communities. A coordinated approach needs to be developed for prevention of such misuse.

Yet at the same time, a balance must be struck between addressing new threats and keeping open avenues for assistance and cooperation. The new discoveries in the field of biological sciences which makes their application simpler and cheaper should be made widely available for the developing countries. The potential dual nature of the emerging technologies in this area should not be used as a pretext for proscribing or restricting their availability to developing countries. No steps should be taken to curb legitimate scientific inquiry or economic activity.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.