Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan aligns itself with the statement delivered by Indonesia, on behalf of NAM.

The BTWC and the CWC represent important pillars of the global security architecture. These instruments have made an important contribution to the goal of general and complete disarmament.

The success of these Conventions demonstrates the continuing relevance and importance of treaties negotiated multilaterally on the basis of good faith and equality, while taking into account the security interests of all states. This spirit of cooperative multilateralism should also show us a way forward to promote the global disarmament agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

Pakistan ratified the BTWC in 1974 as a non-possessor state and remains fully committed to its obligations under the Convention. We share the concerns of the international community regarding the possible negative use of biological weapons, including by non-state actors.

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, we have drafted a BTWC legislation which is under review in our Parliament. To ensure implementation and compliance, we have taken necessary and effective administrative steps as well.

In addition to establishing a National Focal point in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan has established an Inter-Agency Working Group comprising policy experts and life scientists from both public and private sectors.

Mr. Chairman,

We welcome the successful outcome of the Seventh Review Conference. As a member of NAM and being a developing country, we accord special importance to full and effective implementation of Article X of the Convention. Pakistan believes that only a multilaterally agreed verification mechanism can provide the assurance of compliance with treaty obligations. CBMs enhance transparency and trust amongst states parties. However, they cannot be a substitute for compliance measures. We look forward to productive inter-sessional work.
Mr. Chairman,

The Chemical Weapons Convention represents a unique success story of disarmament through verified means. The Convention has also played a key role in preventing the proliferation of chemicals, inconsistent with its object and purpose. We welcome the convening of the High Level Meeting by the OPCW Director General month as a means to advance the goals of CWC in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

Even as we draw satisfaction from the progress made in the destruction of significant quantities of CW stockpiles, it is important that the possessor states continue with the destruction process so as to complete it within the shortest possible time as envisaged in the Conference of States Parties' decision taken at its 16th session.

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,

Pakistan attaches utmost importance to the full implementation of this Convention. 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. We are now in the process of establishing a sub-regional assistance and protection center which will serve as center of excellence for countries in our region.

We 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, we must adhere to the original intent reflected in the Convention. The Convention establishes a hierarchy of threats that different types of chemicals and related facilities pose to the object and purpose of the Convention.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.