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**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Tan Jian, Head of the Chinese Delegation, During the
General Debate of the 103rd Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

(The Hague, July 11, 2023)

Mr Chairman,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Executive Council. The Chinese delegation will actively support you in your work, cooperate with the Bureau and representatives of other delegations, uphold the principle of consensus and bring this session to success.

The Chinese delegation appreciates the statement made by the Director-General and the reports by the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council. China associates itself with the statement made by H.E. Ambassador Rahman Mustafayev of Azerbaijan on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China. Now, please allow me to elaborate on China's positions further.

Mr Chairman,

Currently, profound changes unseen in a century are evolving at an accelerated pace. Regional security hot spots keep flaring up and local conflicts and turbulence occur from time to time. The international community is facing unprecedented challenges. Chinese President Xi Jinping has put forward the Global Security Initiative, advocating the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security and encouraging the international community to uphold the spirit of solidarity and a win-win mindset. The Initiative calls on all parties to join hands in improving global security governance, overcoming security challenges, eliminating the peace deficit and realizing durable peace and development in the world.

Recently, the leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization member states issued the New Delhi Declaration, calling for a full implementation with the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter referred to as "the Convention") as an effective instrument in disarmament and non-proliferation. The Member States appealed for the early destruction of all declared CW stockpiles, reaffirmed their support for the OPCW, and advocated for concerted decision-making to divisions within the Organization, so as to ensure its integrity and effective operation under the Convention.

Under the guidance of the Global Security Initiative, China will continue to work with all States Parties to practise the true multilateralism, firmly advance the objectives and purposes of the Convention, and jointly safeguard its authority and effectiveness. I would like to further elaborate on China's positions:

First, we should adhere to the original aspiration of the Convention, and speed up the destruction of chemical weapons. The complete and thorough destruction of CWs constitutes the core objective of the Convention. With the completion of the destruction of CW stockpiles, the CWs abandoned by Japan on the territory of China (JACWs) has become the most realistic challenge in realizing the vision of a world free of chemical weapons. The past few years have witnessed some progress of the destruction of JACWs. However, the overall process still lags far behind the schedule. Currently, only less than one fifth of the currently-known JACWs have been destroyed. Meanwhile, the JACW destruction process has already failed to meet the deadlines for four times. Based on Japan's current destruction efficiency, the destruction of JACWs would only be completed in the very distant future. At the same time, the relevant work is facing grave challenges, including the lack of burial information and clues, and the serious contamination to the soil and water caused by the JACWs. Before the completion of destruction of JACWs, a "post-chemical weapons destruction era" will never come, and the vision of "a world free of chemical weapons" will never be realized. China urges Japan to implement the new destruction plan in a comprehensive, complete and faithful manner, complete the destruction of JACWs at an

early date and properly dispose the soil contaminated by JACWs. China commends the international community and the OPCW for their efforts for promoting the destruction of JACWs. China hopes that the OPCW will stick to its nature as a disarmament and arms control organisation, and redouble its inputs in the supervision and verification of the JACWs destruction.

Second, we should safeguard the authority of the Convention, and bring the resolution of hot spot issues back to the right track. The Convention is an important pillar of the global security governance system, and the verification and investigation mechanisms under the Convention constitute the basis and yardstick for dealing with issues related to chemical weapons. In recent years, out of their own geopolitical interests, some States Parties disregarded the clear-cut provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex, ignored the well-established mechanisms and investigation procedures under the Convention, and forced a vote on the adoption of the so-called “Decision on Addressing the Threat Posed by Chemical Weapons Use”. They moved on then to push for the establishment of the “Investigation and Identification Team”, which exceeds the mandate of the Convention, and released a series of Investigation reports, which was devoid of corroborated evidence and based on an incomplete chain of custody. All that was aimed at further pressing for the so-called attribution of the responsibility. Such practices have caused a severe political confrontation with the OPCW and undermined the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. The root cause of the current situation is not that the Convention is outdated, but that it is politicized by the outdated Cold War mentality, which has seriously affected its effective implementation. China stands ready to work with all parties to return the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons back to right track, regarding the Convention as the yardstick and facts as the basis, and reach conclusions that can stand the test of history and time.

Third, we should promote dialogue and consultation and return to the tradition of consensus. Global governance in any field should uphold the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, and international organizations cannot run smoothly without dialogue, consultation, and cooperation. As the intergovernmental organization for CW arms control and disarmament, the OPCW shoulders the responsibility of improving security governance in the field of CW arms control. However, in recent years, certain States Parties have frequently extended the wrong practice of forcing votes to the work of OPCW, even the discussions on technical and routine topics have been hindered by geopolitics, undermining the basis for dialogue and cooperation. China calls on all parties to return to the tradition of consensus, bridge differences through dialogue and consultation, work together to resist political manipulation, and the mentality of blocs, ideologization and confrontation in resolving international and regional issues, so as to avoid further damage of the international CW disarmament and arms control regime.

Fourth, we should invest more resources and inject new momentum into international cooperation. The United Nations General Assembly adopted for two consecutive years the resolutions on Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the Context of International Security. During the Fifth Review Conference this year, China submitted, on behalf of 15 States Parties, the working paper entitled “Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses Under the Framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention”. The above-mentioned resolution and document emphasize that the peaceful use of science and technology for sustainable development is of vital importance, and that, under international law, the right to peaceful uses of chemical science and technology is inalienable for every country. China urges relevant countries to lift undue restrictions imposed on the developing countries, calls on the OPCW to continue to improve its international cooperation mechanism and framework, enrich its international cooperation toolbox and redouble the inputs, so that scientific and technological achievements in the field of chemistry can truly benefit the developing countries. China commends the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat for the great efforts in the Centre for Chemistry and Technology. China will give full play to its strengths and actively participate in the relevant cooperation programmes.

Fifth, we should seize the momentum of dialogue and open a new chapter of cooperation. Despite that the outcome document hasn't been adopted at the Fifth Review Conference, the preparatory

process of nearly one year has witnessed the fruitful exchanges of ideas and opinions among States Parties, and the efforts to seek consensus amid position differences. This provides us with an important chance to think about the current situation and new challenges in the field of international CW disarmament and arms control regime. In particular, after extensive and in-depth discussions, States Parties have reached broad consensus on several issues such as industry verification, organizational governance etc, which can serve as a basis to promote the work under the Convention and of the OPCW. On industry inspection, China advocates the principle of not placing additional burdens on the industry and ensuring the balanced allocation of inspection resources. China stands ready to play a constructive role in the process of adjusting the inspection mechanism, supports States Parties to reinforce the research on the impact of the scientific and technological developments on the scheduled chemicals, and supports further discussions on issues such as reducing the inspection backlog and addressing the “tipping point” for the OCPF inspections. On organizational governance, China believes that ensuring a broad geographical representation is an important organizational governance principle under the Convention. China has consistently supported the improvement of the geographical representation of the developing countries in the OPCW, and is looking forward to all States Parties attaching more importance to and redoubling inputs in ensuring the effective implementation of the above-mentioned principles.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and published on the OPCW's public website and intranet.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

中国代表团团长谈践大使出席禁化武组织

第 103 届执理会一般性辩论发言

(2023 年 7 月 11 日，海牙)

主席先生，

首先，请允许我代表中国代表团，对你当选执理会主席表示祝贺。中国代表团将积极支持你的工作，同主席团和各国代表密切合作，坚持协商一致原则，推动本届执理会取得积极成果。

中方认真听取了总干事所作发言和几位副主席的报告，赞同阿塞拜疆大使拉赫曼·穆斯塔法阁下代表不结盟运动和中国所作的发言。下面，请允许我进一步阐述中方立场。

主席先生，

当前，百年变局加速演进，地区安全热点问题此起彼伏，局部冲突和动荡频发，国际社会面临前所未有的严峻挑战。中国国家主席习近平提出全球安全倡议，倡导坚持共同、综合、合作、可持续的安全观，推动国际社会秉持团结精神和共赢思维，携手完善安全治理、解决安全难题、消弭安全赤字，实现世界持久和平与发展。

近日，上海合作组织成员国领导人发表《新德里宣言》，呼吁各方全面履行《禁止化学武器公约》(以下简称“公约”)，使其成为裁军和防扩散领域的有效法律文书；呼吁尽快销毁

所有已宣布的库存化武；重申支持禁化武组织，支持通过协商决策弥合分歧，确保该组织完整性并根据公约有效开展工作。

中方将以全球安全倡议为遵循，与各方一道，践行真正的多边主义，坚定推进公约宗旨目标，共同维护公约权威性和有效性。中国愿与各方进一步分享以下几点主张：

第一，坚守公约初心，加快推进化武销毁。全面、彻底销毁化武是公约的核心目标。当前，库存化武销毁宣告结束，日本遗弃在华化学武器已成为实现“无化武世界”最现实的挑战。近年来，日遗化武销毁虽取得一定进展，但销毁进程仍严重滞后。当前日遗化武仅销毁了已知总量的不到五分之一，日遗化武销毁计划已四次逾期。根据日方当前销毁效率，要在十分遥远的未来才能完成日遗化武销毁。同时，相关工作还面临埋藏线索缺失、水土污染严重等突出问题。在日遗化武完成销毁前，“后化武销毁时代”不会到来，“无化武世界”也不会实现。中方敦促日方全面、完整、准确落实新销毁计划，尽快完成日遗化武销毁，并妥善解决污染土壤等问题。中方赞赏国际社会和禁化武组织为促进日遗化武销毁所作努力，希望禁化武组织坚持裁军与军控机构属性，加大对日遗化武销毁的监督核查力度。

第二，维护公约权威，推动热点问题解决重返正轨。公约是全球安全治理体系的重要支柱，公约规定的核查与调查机制是解决化武问题的依据和准绳。近年来，部分国家出于

地缘政治私利，无视公约及核查附件的明确规定，绕开公约既有机制和调查程序，强推投票通过所谓“追责决定”，成立超出公约授权的“调查鉴定组”，炮制一系列证据未经证实、证据链不完整的调查报告，进而推动所谓追责，造成禁化武组织内激烈政治对抗，严重损害公约权威性和有效性。当前局面的症结不在于公约过时了，恰恰在于公约被冷战思维裹挟，政治化问题日益突出，而严重影响公约的有效执行。中方愿与各方一道，推动指称使用化武调查重返正轨，坚持以公约为准绳，以事实为依据，得出经得起历史和时间检验的结论。

第三，坚持对话协商，回归协商一致传统。任何领域的全球治理都应秉持共商共建共享，任何国际组织的正常运作都离不开对话协商合作。禁化武组织是政府间化武军控与裁军机构，肩负化武军控领域全球治理重任。但近年来，个别国家动辄强推投票表决，甚至关于技术性、常规性议题的审议讨论也受到地缘政治干扰，严重削弱对话合作基础。中方呼吁各方重拾协商一致传统，通过对话协商解决分歧，共同抵制政治操弄逆流，反对通过集团化、意识形态化和对抗性思维解决国际和地区问题，避免进一步损害国际化武裁军与军控体系。

第四，加大资源投入，注入国际合作新动力。联合国大会已连续两年通过“在国际安全领域促进和平利用国际合作”决议。今年召开的公约第五次审议大会期间，中方代表

15 个缔约国提交了“关于在《禁止化学武器公约》框架下促进和平利用国际合作”的工作文件。上述决议和文件强调和平利用科技对可持续发展至关重要、国际法赋予各国和平利用科技的权利不容剥夺。中方敦促有关国家取消对发展中国家的过度限制，呼吁禁化武组织持续完善国际合作机制和框架，丰富国际合作工具箱，加大资源投入，使化学领域的科学技术成果切实惠及广大发展中国家。中方赞赏总干事和技秘处在化学和技术中心建设方面作出的大量努力。中方将充分发挥自身优势，积极参与有关项目合作。

第五，延续对话势头，开启合作新篇章。尽管公约五审会未通过成果文件，但在近一年的筹备进程中，各方理念、立场和诉求不断碰撞，在复杂矛盾分歧中寻求共识，这对思考当前化武领域以及国际裁军与军控体系面临的新形势、新挑战具有重要意义。特别是经过广泛深入讨论，各方就工业视察、组织管理等议题取得广泛共识，可以此为基础推进公约和禁化武组织下步工作。在工业视察问题上，中方主张以不额外增加工业界负担为原则，推动视察资源合理均衡分布。中方愿建设性参与视察机制改革进程，支持各方加强关于科学技术发展对公约附表化学品影响的研究，就解决视察任务积压、应对其他化学品生产设施视察“临界点”等问题开展进一步讨论。在组织管理问题上，中方认为，确保广泛地域代表性是公约规定的重要组织管理原则。中方一贯支持提高发展中国家职员在禁化武组织中的代表性，期待各方加

大关注和投入，推动上述原则切实有效执行。

谢谢主席先生。