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*Mr. Chairman,*

*Mr. Director - General,*

*Distinguished delegates,*

At the outset, on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, may I extend our warmest congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman, on your election as Chairman of this Eleventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Our congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. I also wish to extend my salutation to all other Delegates to this Session. The Vietnamese Delegation is confident that under Mr. Chairman's able leadership along with the sense of responsibility of all delegations, our Session will be crowned with success.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Today, the number of Member States to the Convention has reached 181. The continuous and rapid increase in the Convention membership since its entry into force has proved the universality and effectiveness of the Convention. This also reflects the desire and commitment of the majority of the international community to build a peaceful world free from chemical weapons.

The past 8 years since Viet Nam became a Member State to the Convention have witnessed the goodwill, continued endeavour and efforts by the country's National Authority for the Implementation of the Convention to fulfil Viet Nam's commitment under the Convention. The Decree No. 100/2005 CP-ND on the Implementation of the Convention, promulgated by Vietnamese Government in 2005 and those relevant provisions in the Vietnamese Penal Code (1999) provide a comprehensive set of both administrative measures and criminal punishments, giving the proper legal framework for the effective implementation of the Convention in Viet Nam. In deed, Viet Nam has strictly fulfilled its obligations as a State Party to the Convention, including those related to finance, notification and declaration. The good results of those industrial inspections carried out by the OPCW in Viet Nam since 2003 have demonstrated the authenticity of the country's declaration to the OPCW and its attitude of goodwill, cooperation and its commitment to the Convention.

Over the past few years, Viet Nam has always received active cooperation and support from relevant parties in building and developing its capacity of implementing the Convention. On this occasion, I would like to express our recognition and high appreciation vis-à-vis the valuable supports from the OPCW Secretariat, the European Union and the States Parties to the Viet Nam's National Authority for the Implementation of the Convention. Those supports have been considerably contributing to the effective implementation of the Convention in

Viet Nam. We hope that the Technical Secretariat as well as the other States Parties will continue to extend their support and assistance to Viet Nam.

*Mr. Chairman,*

The year 2006 witnessed a new higher stage in the ever-growing cooperative relationship between Viet Nam and the OPCW with the visit to Viet Nam from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September by His Excellency Ambassador Rogelio Pfitter, Director-General of the OPCW at the invitation of Vietnamese government. The major outcome of these activities is reflected in the high appreciation by the OPCW leader for the efforts Viet Nam has deployed and the achievements it has gained in implementing the Convention as well as the common commitments by both Viet Nam and the OPCW to the main goal of the CWC. In this regard, Viet Nam has shown its goodwill to be more proactive in universalizing and supporting the implementation of the Convention at sub-regional level, including the close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in organizing in 2007 the conference on customs issues relevant to the implementation of the Convention in ASEAN.

*Mr. Chairman,*

In our view, verification mechanism is necessary to ensure the implementation of the Convention, but should not be a burden for States Parties with chemical industry of small scale and no facilities of scheduled toxic chemicals. In this regard, we hope that consensus would soon be reached over the OCPF site selection methodology, ensuring objectivity and fairness in compliance with the spirit of the Convention.

The effective implementation of the Convention requires the endeavour of all the States Parties in further control towards the complete elimination of chemical weapons as well as the reasons for producing them and in prohibition of the use of chemical weapons by warring parties or terrorists in order to allow chemicals to only serve the human beings with the goals of peace and prosperity.

We are of the view that to reach the above goals, the States Parties should exert more efforts to universalize the Convention; ensure the effective operation of the OPCW and the strict fulfilment of their obligations under the Convention; besides, fairness, indiscriminate, respect for national legitimate security interests and sovereignty of all the States Parties must be ensured.

Viet Nam supports efforts made by the African Group concerning the establishment of an OPCW Office in Africa. Viet Nam also supports the draft Decision on tenure policy for the consideration of this Session of the Conference of States Parties and expresses its strong view that the process of employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat continue to ensure fairness, transparency and equitable geographical distribution. Furthermore, Viet Nam welcomes efforts made by the related parties in preparation towards the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EIF of the CWC and strongly believes that the event will serve to promote greater awareness of and wider knowledge about the CWC and the OPCW.

Viet Nam believes that the implementation of the Convention will promote international trade of chemicals. Thus, international cooperation activities in the fields of chemistry in particular, as well as economy and technique in general, in accordance with Article 11 of the Convention, need to be reinforced.

*Mr. Chairman,*

Nine years have passed since the Convention came into force; Viet Nam appreciates the efforts and the achievements of the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties in the implementation of the Convention. Numerous challenges, however, still lie ahead of us in the path towards a complete implementation. Viet Nam is confident that with the continued efforts of the OPCW and the comprehensive support and cooperation of the States Parties, those challenges can be transformed into opportunities to reach the set goals. Viet Nam commits to work wholeheartedly with other States Parties for the goal of a peaceful and stable world free from chemical weapons – a kind of weapon of mass destruction threatening the human beings.

*May I wish this Eleventh Session to conclude in success,*

*Thank you, Mr. Chairman,*

*Thank you, distinguished Delegates, for your attention.*