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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WU KEN
HEAD OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION AT THE
EIGHTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to welcome you back as Chairperson of the Executive Council. As always, my delegation will fully cooperate with both you and other delegations, in an effort to help bring the deliberations of all the agenda items of this session to a successful conclusion.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his report, as well as the Vice-Chairpersons for their respective reports. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. Please allow me to take this opportunity to elaborate further China's position and views regarding the following issues.

Madam Chairperson,

In the last three years, thanks to the joint efforts made by all the parties concerned, the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons has yielded important progress. The Secretariat and the Syrian Government have also carried out considerable cooperation regarding the Syrian initial declarations. And the investigation of the incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria has made constant headway. On the other hand, whether in terms of the process of a political solution for Syria, or concerning the Syrian chemical weapons, it is hardly possible to have a smooth progress, and it is quite likely to encounter various difficulties. However, the more difficulties that would arise, the more necessary it would be to maintain patience and persistence, and to adhere to the general direction of a political settlement, instead of rashly closing the door to cooperation and dialogue. The parties concerned should stay united, shoulder their respective responsibilities, and implement the relevant OPCW decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions fully and accurately, so as to bring the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons to a proper solution. As a country which was subjected to the untold sufferings caused by the chemical weapons used by the invading Japanese army, China is strongly against the use of chemical weapons by any



state, organisation or individual under any circumstances. Whoever uses chemical weapons is reprehensible, and should accordingly be held accountable.

Madam Chairperson,

The destruction of chemical weapons of all categories represents the core object of the Chemical Weapons Convention and constitutes the top priority of the OPCW. Although positive progress has been made in the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, it is regrettable that the pace of the destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan (ACWs) on the territory of China lags far behind schedule. The complete and thorough destruction of Japanese ACWs represents a sacred obligation and an international responsibility under the Convention. And, our lofty goal of “a world free from chemical weapons” will never be truly achieved so long as the threat posed by Japanese ACWs is yet to be eliminated. Japan indicated at the last Council session that it would be unable to reach the phased target for the destruction in 2016, as specified by the relevant decision made by the Council at its Sixty-Seventh Session. China expresses hereby its grave concern regarding this situation. China urges Japan to implement to the letter its obligations under the Convention, as well as the relevant Council decision, and present a feasible and practical solution while speeding up its effort to identify the suspect Japanese ACWs, for the purpose of returning China to a clean land at an early date. The OPCW should continue to ensure resource inputs for related verification, and fulfil its reviewing and monitoring duties.

Madam Chairperson,

As one of the important pillars of the Convention, international cooperation represents a major concern of a vast number of developing countries. Thanks to the concerted efforts made by all sides, the workshop on the review and evaluation of the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention will be held at the end of November. China hopes that all parties will make use of the occasion to take heed of all the views and requirements from the developing countries, and draw up an overall blueprint for the future development of international cooperation, so as to promote the use of chemical science and technology for the full benefit of all nations.

Madam Chairperson,

We will usher in the 20th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention next year. From the perspective of a new historical starting point, the future priorities of the OPCW will constitute an important issue for this Organisation. China was pleased to see that the first meeting of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities was held successfully, and commends the Co-Chairpersons of the working group for their work. It is China's hope that the working group will continue to follow the principle of letting States Parties take the dominant role and the policy-making organs make decisions, perform its work openly and transparently, and deliver results as early as possible for the consideration by the Fourth Review Conference.

It is essential for the Secretariat to function properly and efficiently. China has actively joined in the consultations on the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2017, and commends the Secretariat and all the parties for their efforts. China hopes that the Council will reach a consensus on the Draft Programme and Budget, in order to ensure the smooth operation of the work of this Organisation in all its aspects in 2017.

The Chinese delegation requests the circulation of this statement as an official document of this session and its uploading onto the official and internal website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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