

**STATEMENT OF H.E. AMBASSADOR NGO THI HOA,
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIETNAM TO THE OPCW AT THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE**

(21-30 November 2018)

Mr Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Excellencies and Distinguished Delegates,

Let me take this opportunity to join other delegations in welcoming H.E. Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference and express our full confidence in your able leadership to steer the sessions of the Conference to a successful conclusion. We wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador. Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report. We appreciate the Chairpersons of the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Sessions of the Conference of the State Parties, H.E. Ambassador. Abdelouahab Bellouki of the Kingdom of Morocco and H.E. Ambassador. Yun-young Lee of South Korea for their dedications during those Sessions. We would also like to commend Ambassador I Gusti Agung Puja of Indonesia, the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation for the Fourth Review Conference for his outstanding efforts on preparing the Draft Provisional Text of the Conference.

We associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of NAM State Parties to the CWC and China.

Mr Chairperson,

Our Conference is convened at a critical time as the international community has met with both progress and challenges regarding the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). On one side, after 21 years of coming into force, the Convention is now considered as the most successful multilateral and universal instrument in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. On the other hand, the daunting risks of chemical weapons being used or threatened to be used, especially those initiated by terrorists and non-State actors, require more collective efforts from the Organization, State Parties and all other relevant stakeholders to achieve the full objective of the Convention.

In this vein, my Delegation considers this Conference an important opportunity for us to uphold the Convention in its entirety, and work towards the balanced and objective implementation of all provisions of the Convention, thereby making positive contributions to international peace and security as well as sustainable economic and technological development of the States Parties.

Mr Chairperson,

Viet Nam constantly pursues its long-standing principle to support general and complete disarmament in a comprehensive and verified manner, including the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. We continue to underline that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstances should be condemned and perpetrators of chemical weapons use should be brought to justice. We attach great importance to the work of the OPCW as well as the effective cooperation between Viet Nam and the Organization and at the same time, reaffirm our commitments to fully implement obligations under the Convention.

In this regard, we suggest that the Conference take into account the following contents during its deliberations:

Firstly, there should be further substantive and concrete measures to promote international cooperation in the peaceful uses of chemistry and in capacity-building programmes and activities. We call for further assistance and technical support extended from the OPCW and the international community to developing countries in this connection.

Secondly, we believe that as the destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpile nears completion, there should be renewed focus of the Organization on preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons and developing the chemical industry in a safe and secure manner. Correspondingly, the regular budget of and voluntary contributions to the OPCW need to be properly allocated to better support the evolution of the Organization and adapt to a changing environment.

Thirdly, it is also imperative to ensure a geographical and gender balance at the Technical Secretariat, particularly at the professional level. We hope that States Parties will work out relevant modalities to make better use of human resources and expertise from developing countries.

Fourthly, we support efforts in setting up and expanding the network of regional centres to coordinate best practices and resources in the implementation of CWC, including the initiative to establish the Centre for ASEAN Regional CWC Capability Hub. We are ready to work with the Organization and other interested partners to materialize this initiative in the coming period.

Finally, we request that this Statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference and posted on OPCW's public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.