

**Speech by H.E. Ngo Thi Hoa, Ambassador of Viet Nam to  
the Netherlands, Head of Viet Nam Delegation**

*(At the twenty fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties  
of the OPCW Hague 25 - 29 November 2019)*

Mr. Chairman,

Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, Director - General,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, allow me at the outset to congratulate Ambassador Krassimir Kostov, Permanent Representative of Bulgaria to the OPCW, for being elected as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I believe that under the Chairman's experienced and skillful leadership with the active participation of all delegations, our Session will come to a successful conclusion.

Mr Chairman,

Viet Nam would like to congratulate the success in implementing the CWC programs in 2019 as informed by the Draft Report of the Technical Secretariat. We are very impressed with the number of activities and programmes that the Technical Secretariat conducted to increase capacity for States Parties in the previous year with 96 trainings and workshops for more than 2,000 participants and 241 inspections of industrial facilities. We highly appreciate the substantial contribution of His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias - Director General of the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat for this achievement.

Furthermore, we highly appreciate the assistance of the OPCW for developing countries, including Viet Nam, by exchanging technology, equipment and management methods for the development of a safe and secured chemical industry to promote green and sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

With our own unpleasant experience of being the victim of prolonged wars involving various kinds of weapon, including toxic chemicals, Viet Nam is aware of the severe and long-lasting consequences they cause to the health of human beings and the ecological environment.

For this reason, Viet Nam has always been an active member of the Convention since 1998. We have fully complied with our obligations under the Convention by establishing the National Authority in 2002 and issued the national legal framework in 2005 and amended it in 2014.

Viet Nam had the honour of welcoming the Director General of the OPCW in 2018. During the visit, the Director General stated that “Viet Nam is one of the first countries having a legal framework which represents the seriousness in implementing the commitments made by the Government of Viet Nam when signing the Convention”.

We have also cooperated with the OPCW to organize 07 events regarding the Convention in Viet Nam since 1999 and became the active member of the Executive Council for the period of 2016-2018.

Mr. Chairman,

Beside the effective results in the CWC’s implementation in 2019, we regret to see the non-consensus among the State Parties for some decisions of the Executive Council. Therefore, we call for the constructive engagement of all State Parties under a non-political basis in order to fulfil the mission of the Chemical Weapons Convention for “a world free of chemical weapons and the peaceful application of chemistry for all”.

For this purpose, Viet Nam supports adding potentially lethal chemicals causing mass destruction to Schedule chemicals. We also underline the importance of the development of international cooperation and of promoting further cooperation between the OPCW and the WCO in developing 6-digit HS codes for all schedule chemicals, not just for the most traded chemicals.

Mr. Chairman,

Numerous challenges, however, still lie ahead of us on the path towards a complete implementation of the Convention. Viet Nam is confident that with the continued efforts of the OPCW and the comprehensive support and cooperation of the State Parties, those challenges can be transformed into opportunities to reach the set goals.

Viet Nam remains committed to supporting the OPCW and to working actively with all States Parties and the OPCW towards a successful Conference and attaining the common goals of the Chemical Weapons Convention in contribution to international peace and security.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairman,

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