

## Chinese Delegation's Explanation of Vote on the Draft Decision "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic"

The Chinese Delegation voted against the draft decision "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic". I'd like to explain our vote.

Two years ago, some States Parties forcibly pushed for by vote the adoption of controversial decision "Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use ". Many countries including China raised questions to the establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team as well as its working methodology and procedure. While these questions yet to be addressed, some States Parties once again pushed for a vote on another draft decision "Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic". Such practice is not constructive. It would only create polarization and confrontation among States Parties, and lead to further politicization of the work of the OPCW. Therefore, as well as considering the existing position of China on attribution of the use of chemical weapons, China voted against the above-mentioned draft decision.

Currently, the work of the OPCW is facing grave challenges. Dialogue is replaced by voting. States Parties divide and confront with each other on the issue of attribution. The departure point of China on addressing the issue of attribution is to maintain the authority and integrity of the CWC. This is a matter of principle. For any alleged use of chemical weapons that may happen in any State Party, impartial, objective investigation should be carried out on the basis of facts with the CWC as the yardstick. Every State Party is equal before the CWC. All States Parties have the responsibility and obligation to safeguard the effectiveness and integrity of the CWC and the OPCW, rather than going further down on the wrong path and letting the OPCW degrade into a geographic political tool used by some States Parties to suppress others. It is a matter of vital security and interest of every State Party. China calls upon once again all States Parties to address the issue of chemical weapons in Syria in strict accordance with the CWC, so as to to maintain the authority and effectiveness of the CWC.

## 中国代表团关于“处理叙利亚拥有及使用化学武器”决定草案投票的解释性发言

中国代表团在刚才对“处理叙利亚拥有及使用化学武器”决定草案投了反对票，我愿就此做解释性发言。

两年前，一些国家以强行推动投票的方式通过了充满争议的“应对使用化武威胁”决定。包括中方在内的不少国家对于成立调查鉴定组以及该小组的工作方式和程序提出质疑。在上述质疑未得到回应和解决的情况下，这些国家再次强行推动就“处理叙利亚拥有及使用化武武器”决定草案进行表决。这种做法不具建设性，只会进一步在缔约国之间制造分裂和对抗，导致禁化武组织的工作不断政治化。鉴于上述，并考虑到中方对于使用化武追责问题上的一贯立场，中方对该决定草案投了反对票。

目前，禁化武组织工作面临严重挑战，投票代替了对话。缔约国之间围绕使用化武追责问题分裂、对立。中方对待追责问题的出发点就是维护公约权威和完整性。这是一个原则问题。对于任何缔约国可能出现的指称使用化武情况，都应该以事实为依据，以公约为准绳，进行公正、客观的调查和处理。公约面前，所有缔约国都是平等的。缔约国都有责任和义务维护公约和禁化武组织的有效性和完整性，而不可一错再错，放任其沦为某些国家打压另一些国家的地缘政治工具。这涉及到每一个缔约国的切身安全和利益。中方再次呼吁各方严格按照公约相关规定处理叙化武问题，以维护公约的严肃性和有效性。