

Statement by H.E. Mr. Pham Viet Anh
Ambassador and Representative of Viet Nam to the OPCW
at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

It is my honour to represent the Viet Nam Delegation for the first time at the 25th Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. I wish to send all colleagues my warmest greeting and look forward to receiving your support, cooperation and camaraderie in my tenure.

On behalf of Viet Nam Delegation, I wish to congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Jose Antonio Zabalgaitia Trejo of Mexico, on assuming the position as Chair for this year's Conference and assure you of our full support for the work ahead.

I also would like to express high appreciation to Director-General of OPCW, Ambassador Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for their various efforts to advance OPCW work in the unprecedented context of the pandemic Covid 19.D

Vietnam aligns itself with the statement of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Once a war-torn country, Viet Nam fully empathy with the suffering of the victims and strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances, and for whatever reason. Viet Nam reaffirms its commitment to disarmament, non-proliferation and the prohibition of chemical weapons.

Vietnam has always been an active member of OPCW since its accession in 1998, since then has organized 7 events and has actively participated in the EC Executive Council in 2016-2018. In the past year, Vietnam has fulfilled its declaration obligations, participated in many online events by OPCW and is actively reviewing and amending domestic law to conform to the revised Convention.

Vietnam wishes to promote OPCW as the leading multilateral organization in the field of disarmament and capacity building for CWC implementation. To achieve full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the CWC, it is essential that the Organisation to focus on maintaining open and transparent dialogues among members, increasing assistance and technical support to States Parties to enhance their national implementation; paying attention to the geographical balance in recruiting personnels, especially from developing countries, and developing more OPCW-designated laboratories in various regions to improve operational efficiency.

In conclusion, Viet Nam reiterate its strong commitment to the CWC and calls on States Parties to uphold the principles of constructive dialogue and cooperation to realize the common objectives of the Convention, which contribute to international peace and security.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Council and be published on the OPCW website and extranet.