

Statement By H.E.Mr.TAN Jian Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China at the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW

(The Hague, 9 March 2021)

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to begin by welcoming you back to the Chair of the EC session. This is the first time that I attend an EC session as the Permanent Representative of China. I myself and the Chinese delegation will work with all other delegations in actively supporting you in your work, in order to help make the proceedings of this session a success.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and the Vice-Chairpersons for their respective reports. This delegation associates itself with the statement made by H.E. Mr. Fikrat Akhundov of Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. Now, please allow me to elaborate China's views and positions further on the following important issues.

Firstly, as a major international organization in the field of arms control and disarmament, the OPCW constitutes a vital platform for promoting realization of a "world free of chemical weapons" and fostering international cooperation in chemical industry. Meanwhile, it plays an indispensable and unique role in safeguarding international peace, security and stability. In the recent years, however, there has been an evident trend towards politicization in the work of the OPCW. On some sensitive issues, States Parties have been polarized. And it has been a practice to have confrontation supersede dialogue, and voting replace consensus. If this situation goes on, it will be unfavourable to the healthy development of the OPCW. At the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda held recently, Chinese President Xi Jinping proposed that we should all uphold and practise multilateralism; stay committed to international law and international rules instead of seeking one's own supremacy; and remain committed to consultation and cooperation instead of conflict and confrontation. These principles apply to the OPCW as well. China appeals to all parties to return to our tradition of seeking consensus, work jointly to improve the working atmosphere in the OPCW and preserve the authority and effectiveness of the Convention.

Secondly, the destruction of chemical weapons (CWs) is a core objective of the Convention, and a key step towards creating “a world free of chemical weapons”. China has noted the progress in the destruction of CW stockpiles in the recent years, and urges the only remaining CW Possessor State, to complete the destruction at an early date. Due to the impact of Covid-19, the process of the destruction of Japanese ACWs has been further delayed. Japan has undertaken to complete the destruction by the end of 2022 of the Japanese ACWs buried at Haerbaling and those at other locations declared to the OPCW by the end of 2016. Time is running short before the deadline. China urges Japan to fulfil its obligation as an Abandoning State in earnest, overcome the impact of the pandemic, make steady headways in the destruction, and address such issues as the contaminated soil properly. China will as always provide its cooperation.

Thirdly, on the issue of the elimination of the Syrian CW programme, China has taken note of the relevant reports circulated by the DG and by Syria. China encourages the Technical Secretariat to maintain its dialogue with Syria, so as to facilitate positive progress in solving such outstanding issues as the clarification of Syria’s CW initial declaration. China has always stood against the use of CWs by any state or individual under any circumstance. With regard to the incidents of the alleged use of CWs, the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) should strictly abide by the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex, and conduct its investigations in the spirit of objectivity, impartiality and professionalism.

China has repeatedly called upon all sides to bring the implementation of the “Decision on Addressing the Threat Posed by Chemical Weapons Use” back into the framework of the Convention. The working methodology and procedure of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) should comply with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex. The investigation should be based on solid facts and evidence, and guarantee a complete and closed chain of evidence, which, in turn, ensures that the investigation will lead to an objective, truthful and impartial conclusion. As the main policy-making organ entrusted by the Convention with the task of addressing the issue of compliance, the EC should fully discharge its powers and functions deriving from the Convention, and stringently supervise the various activities of the TS, including the investigation of the alleged use of CWs and the attribution of its responsibility.

Fourthly, regarding the amendment of the Rules of Procedure of the ABAF, China is of the view that as an open mechanism with no decision-making power, this body should maintain its diversity and geographical balance. States Parties are entitled to nominating candidates whom they deem qualified. To authorise the EC to dismiss any member of the ABAF is not in line with the common practice of the administrative and financial advisory bodies in

international organisations, and will adversely affect the independence of the ABAF. China is concerned about this issue, and calls on the sponsors of the relevant draft decision to continue their consultation with all the other parties, in an effort to seek consensus. With regard to the nomination of ABAF members, China calls on all parties to uphold the customary practice and appoint members by consensus.

Fifthly, when it comes to the aerosolised use of central nerve system-acting chemical agents for law-enforcement purposes, China is of the view that this is as much a technical as a legal matter, which is of significance to the Convention itself, as well as to States Parties' obligations thereunder, and should thus be dealt with cautiously. China advocates a continued in-depth exchange of views among States Parties on the technical and legal aspects of this matter, in order to forge broad-based consensus. Until then, there should be no rush to force any vote on relevant draft decision, so as to avoid any negative impact on the authority and legal effect of the Convention.

China has noted that during the general debate, some states raised allegations against the Russian Federation on the issue of "poisoning" Alexei Navalny. China believes that all parties concerned should work for a better mutual understanding and try to resolve their disagreements through consultation and dialogue, instead of easily resorting to sanctions or the threat of sanctions.

The Chinese Delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session, and be published on the external server and the public website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.



中华人民共和国常驻禁止化学武器组织代表团

中国代表团团长谈践大使出席禁化武组织

第 96 届执理会一般性辩论发言

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主席先生，

首先，请允许我代表中国代表团欢迎你再次主持会议。这是我首次作为常驻代表参加执理会，我本人和中国代表团将与各方一道积极支持你的工作，为会议各项审议顺利进行做出贡献。

中方感谢总干事和几位副主席的报告，赞同阿塞拜疆菲克拉·阿克洪多夫阁下代表不结盟运动和中国所做的发言。下面，请允许我进一步阐述中方对一些重要问题的看法和立场：

首先，禁化武组织作为重要的军控和裁军国际组织，是推动实现“无化武世界”、促进化工领域国际合作的重要平台，在维护国际和平安全稳定方面发挥着不可或缺的独特作用。但近年来，禁化武组织工作政治化倾向明显，缔约国在

一些敏感问题上分歧严重，对抗代替对话，投票代替协商一致。长此以往，这不利于禁化武组织的健康发展。不久前，中国国家主席习近平在“达沃斯议程”对话会上提出，要维护和践行多边主义，坚持以国际法为基础，不搞为我独尊；坚持协商合作，不搞冲突对抗。这些原则同样适用于禁化武组织。中方呼吁各方回归协商一致传统，共同努力改进禁化武组织工作氛围，有效维护公约权威性和有效性。

第二，销毁化学武器是《禁止化学武器公约》的核心目标，是实现“无化武世界”的关键步骤。中方注意到近年来库存化武销毁所取得的进展，敦促目前唯一的化武拥有国尽快完成销毁。受新冠肺炎疫情影响，日遗化武销毁进程进一步迟滞。日本承诺于2022年内完成销毁哈尔巴岭埋藏日遗化武及各地2016年底前已向禁化武组织宣布的日遗化武。离这一时限剩下的时间已不多。中方敦促日方切实履行遗弃国责任，克服疫情影响，稳步推进销毁进程，并妥善处理污染土壤等问题。中方将一如既往地予以配合。

第三，关于消除叙利亚化武计划问题，中方注意到总干事和叙利亚散发的相关报告，鼓励技秘处与叙利亚继续保持对话，推动叙化武初始宣布澄清等未决问题取得积极进展。中方一贯反对任何国家、任何人在任何情况下使用化武。对于指称使用化武事件，事实调查组应严格依照公约以及相关核查附件的规定，秉持客观、公正、专业的精神开展调查。

中方一再呼吁，各方应推动“应对使用化武威胁决定”的执行回归公约框架。调查鉴定组工作方法和程序必须符合公约及其核查附件的要求，调查应基于确凿的事实和证据，保证证据链的完整与闭合，从而确保调查结论的客观、真实

与公正。执理会作为公约规定的处理履约问题的主要决策机构，必须充分行使公约赋予的权利和职能，严格监督化武追责调查在内的技秘处各项活动。

第四，关于修订行政与财务咨询委员会议事规则问题，中方认为，委员会作为一个开放性、不具决策权的机制，应保持多样性和地域平衡性，缔约国有权提名其认为合格的人选。授权执理会撤销委员会成员资格，不符合国际组织行财咨询机构的惯常做法，也会对委员会的独立性造成影响，中方对此存有关切。中方呼吁提案国继续与各方开展磋商，以争取协商一致。关于任命委员会成员问题，中方呼吁各方维护习惯性做法，以协商一致方式任命委员会成员。

第五，关于出于执法目的以气溶胶方式使用中枢神经作用剂问题，中方认为这既涉及技术问题，更涉及法律问题，对于公约本身和缔约国所承担的义务具有重要影响，应该慎重对待。中方主张缔约国围绕该问题涉及的技术、法律等各方面问题继续深入交换意见，以争取形成广泛共识。在此之前，不应急于强行推动就有关决定草案进行表决，以免对公约权威及法律效力造成负面影响。

中方注意到有关国家在一般性辩论发言中就纳瓦尼“中毒”问题对俄罗斯进行指责。中方认为，有关各方应通过协商和对话增进理解，化解分歧，而不是动辄使用制裁或以制裁相威胁。

中国代表团要求将此发言作为会议正式文件散发，并刊载于禁化武组织内网和公众网。

谢谢主席先生。