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**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,  
Mr Director-General,  
Distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to begin by congratulating the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the OPCW, Ambassador Zabalgaitia, for his election as the Chairman of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the OPCW. The Chinese delegation is ready to fully cooperate with you, and with other delegations, in a joint effort to make this session a success. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your predecessor Ambassador Kostov, as well as the Executive Council Chairman, Ambassador Gómez, for the work which they have done.

China associates itself with the statement made by the representative of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China. Now, please allow me to elaborate on China's positions on some issues further.

Mr Chairman,

This year has been special. COVID-19 is still raging across the world. The global economy is in recession. Globalism has met with counter-currents. Unilateralism and hegemony have been on the rise, and some international regimes have been faced with increasing risks. As a result, the OPCW has been inevitably affected. The Chinese delegation would like to commend the Director-General, the Technical Secretariat, and the States Parties for their endeavours to overcome the difficulties and carry on with the implementation of the Convention. At the same time, this delegation is highly concerned over the worsening politicisation of certain aspects of work of the OPCW and the current situation of States Parties being deeply divided.

The Convention constitutes an essential cornerstone for the preservation of global peace and security. The maintenance of the Convention's authority and effectiveness, the realisation of its object and purpose, and the effort to bring the work of the OPCW back on the right track are the shared responsibilities of all States Parties, which serve the common interests of all sides. In this connection, China has the following propositions:

Firstly, the cause of meeting the goal of a "chemical weapon-free world" should be accelerated. The comprehensive prohibition and destruction of chemical weapons of all categories and the



thorough elimination of the possibility of using chemical weapons are some of the fundamental objects of the Convention, and should thus be consistently adhered to. China urges the United States of America, the only remaining possessor state with a chemical weapons stockpile, to honour its obligation under the Convention by completing its destruction as early as possible, according to the relevant Conference decision on the chemical weapons destruction beyond the final deadline, and to the specified extended deadline.

The chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China still pose a real threat to the lives and properties of the Chinese people and to the environmental safety of the country. China calls on Japan to continue to increase its input and advance the destruction process further. As impacted by COVID-19, this year's destruction operations have been deferred. China will maintain its communication with Japan and the Technical Secretariat, and seek to have the operations restored to normal as soon as possible.

Secondly, the technical nature of the OPCW should be truly preserved. The Convention contains the stipulations on a full, strict, and specific regime of verification and its procedure, as well as the measures for ensuring the implementation of the Convention. While the Technical Secretariat is responsible for implementing the verification measures under the Convention, the Convention does not entrust the Technical Secretariat with any authority to attribute the responsibility for the use of chemical weapons. The States Parties and the Technical Secretariat should both act stringently in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its relevant annex, and work in earnest to safeguard its authority and effectiveness.

The Chinese delegation is concerned about the multiple incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons in recent years. China believes that the investigation of the incidents in question should return to the framework of the Convention as soon as possible, so as to ensure a truthful compliance with the procedure, reliable evidence, and credible findings. On the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons, China is strongly opposed to the circumvention of the mechanisms under the Convention and the establishment of the so-called "Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)" as a brand-new alternative. In fact, the credibility of the evidence accepted by the IIT is questionable, and the IIT's working approach and methodology does not conform to the provisions on the investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons under the Convention. Instead of getting to the bottom of the truth, it has served to make the States Parties even more divided.

Regarding the recent incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons, China has noted with concern that some countries have jumped to the presumption of guilt, whereas the technical assistance requested by the State Party concerned according to the Convention has not been responded to timely. China appeals to all the parties concerned to cooperate with one another and demonstrate their sincerity for having dialogues and cooperation. China also hopes that the Technical Secretariat will play a constructive role in this regard.

Thirdly, efforts should be made to maintain the tradition of reaching consensus among the States Parties. The policy-making organs of the OPCW play a key role in ensuring the implementation of the Convention, and is thus duty-bound with critical responsibilities. The decision making by the policy-making organs is the right way to preserve the unity of the States Parties and achieve the object and purpose of the Convention in a comprehensive and effective manner. With respect to some major issues, the States Parties should hold in-depth and thorough discussions, seek to bridge disagreements through constructive dialogue and consultation, and work to forge consensus. On this basis, decisions should be made with caution.

In recent years, the OPCW has shown a growing tendency towards using voting to replace dialogue, and resorting to confrontation to supersede cooperation. That is a cause for China's profound concern. In an international organisation, if crucial issues and personnel, financial, and legal matters are all addressed through voting, the Organisation's authority is bound to be widely questioned, and the implementation of the relevant decisions will be very much compromised. China calls upon the States Parties concerned to revert to the right track of having dialogues and consultations with one another, so as to prevent any further damage caused to the authority of the OPCW.

Fourthly, international cooperation should be effectively reinforced, in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States Parties. The provisions on assistance and protection against chemical weapons and international cooperation are critical pillars for the full and effective implementation of the Convention. China is in favour of increasing the budgetary input in assistance and protection against chemical weapons and international cooperation, and enhancing the developing nations' capacity to implement the Convention, so as to ensure that the States Parties, especially the developing countries among them, will have full access to enjoying the bonus of the peaceful use of chemistry. In this regard, discussions should be continued on establishing a "follow-up mechanism for Article XI of the Convention", and on such measures as the formulation of an "action plan", so as to ensure that Article XI is effectively implemented, and that States not Party would be more willing to accede to the Convention.

Mr Chairman,

China has always fulfilled its obligation under the Convention in earnest, and steadfastly upheld the object and purpose of the Convention. China has declared the most industrial facilities in the world; China's domestic implementation mechanism has kept improving; and China has been receiving all kinds of inspection in an efficient and stringent fashion. China stands firmly against the use of chemical weapons by any country, any organisation, and any individual, under any circumstance. As always, China has staunchly upheld fairness and justice, and promoted the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons to be conducted on the basis of facts, and using the Convention as the yardstick, with a view to maintaining global peace and security. As the second largest contributor of the assessed contributions, China has made its important contribution to the comprehensive, balanced, and effective implementation of the Convention all over the world. On the condition that the anti-COVID-19 measures permit, China will continue to actively assist other States in enhancing their implementation capacity, through multiple vehicles such as hosting workshops and training courses, and conducting bilateral exchanges, in an effort to contribute to the universality and effectiveness of the Convention. China will consistently support the Director-General and the Technical Secretariat in their continuous performance of their responsibilities mandated by the Convention.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and uploaded to the public website and external server of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.