

Statement By Ambassador Tan Jian,
the Chinese Permanent Representative to the OPCW,
During the General Debate of the Ninety-Seventh Session of
the Executive Council

(The Hague, 6 July 2021)

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the Executive Council and on your chairmanship for EC session for the first time. China is confident that, with your diplomatic experience and skills, you will surely be able to improve the work and the atmosphere of this Council, consolidate the spirit of unity and consensus among States Parties, and bring this session to a successful conclusion. The Chinese delegation will actively work with you and all the other delegations, in a concerted effort to complete the proceedings of this session successfully.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Director-General and the Vice-Chairpersons for their respective reports. This delegation associates itself with the statement delivered 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 further on the following issues.

Firstly, as an integral part of the international arms control and disarmament mechanism, the OPCW plays a unique and indispensable role in promoting the realization of "a world free of chemical weapons", fostering international cooperation in the chemical industry and maintaining international security and stability. However, it is worrying that political differences and confrontation among States Parties on some sensitive issues have adversely affected the conduct of the normal work of the OPCW. On June 11, at the high-level segment of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Chinese State Councillor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed three principles to advance the international arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation processes. These principles are that, firstly, we need to strengthen cooperation for mutual benefits, promote peace and security through cooperation, stand firm against Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, and work to achieve security for all; secondly, we need to uphold fairness and justice, strengthen the authority and effectiveness of the UN-centred multilateral disarmament mechanisms, reject exceptionalism and double standards, and work to achieve universal security; Thirdly, we need to take a comprehensive approach to improve governance. We should address immediate prominent

security challenges, and at the same time also take multi-pronged policies to remove potential threats, for the purpose of achieving sustainable security. These three principles are applicable 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 in earnest.

Secondly, the comprehensive and complete destruction of chemical weapons (CWs) is the core component and object of the Chemical Weapons Convention. China has noted the progress in the destruction of CW stockpiles in the recent years, and urges the only remaining CW Possessor State to fulfil its obligations under the Convention effectively by completing the destruction within the timeframe established by the Conference decision on the extension of the deadline for CW destruction.

The destruction of ACW constitutes an important integral part of the Convention, on which the realization of “a world free of chemical weapons” hinges. Despite the impact of Covid-19, China has overcome a multitude of difficulties in carrying out a vast amount of work and reaching agreement with Japan regarding an anti-pandemic plan for the destruction work. These efforts facilitated the resumption of the destruction at Haerbaling last May. In light of Japan’s undertaking to complete the destruction by the end of 2022, the current overall pace of destruction is still lagging far behind schedule. China urges Japan to fulfil its obligation as an Abandoning State in earnest by stepping up its inputs, making steady headways in the destruction process and addressing such prominent issues as the contaminated soil properly. China will maintain communication and enhance coordination with Japan and the Secretariat, and provide its assistance as always.

Thirdly, on the issue of the elimination of the Syrian CW programme, China has always stood for dialogue and cooperation as the only right approach to solving the Syrian CW issue. China has taken note of the relevant reports circulated by the Director-General and by Syria. China encourages Syria and the Secretariat to keep up engagement and dialogue, so as to forge positive progress on resolving such outstanding issues as the clarification of Syria’s CW initial declaration. At the same time, China calls upon the international community to create favourable conditions for both sides to strengthen cooperation and solve the pending issues, instead of denying or even impeding such efforts.

China has always stood against the use of CWs by any state, organization or individual under any circumstance for any purpose. The incidents of the alleged use of CWs should be

investigated and addressed strictly in line with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex and in adherence to the principles of objectivity, impartiality, and professionalism. The investigation should be based on solid facts, and come to the conclusions that can stand the test of time and history. As for the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), China has stressed from the very beginning that its establishment went beyond the mandate of the Convention, and has had concerns over its working methodology, procedure and personnel composition. China calls on the relevant parties to return to the principle of multilateralism at an early date, bring the issue of the investigation of the alleged use of CWs back into the framework of the Convention, avoid creating further conflicts and confrontation among States Parties, cease constantly politicising the work of the OPCW and safeguard jointly the authority and integrity of the Convention.

Finally, China encourages the Chairman, the Vice-chairpersons, and the facilitators to continue playing their enabling role in facilitating each consultation mechanism to take measures to improve the working methodologies, so as to advance the Convention-related work in all aspects in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session, and be published on the public website and the extranet 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

中国常驻禁化武组织代表谈践大使出席
第 97 届执行理事会一般性辩论发言

(2021 年 7 月 6 日，海牙)

主席先生，

首先，请允许我代表中国代表团祝贺你当选执理会主席并首次主持执理会。中方相信以你的外交经验和技巧，一定能改善执理会工作和氛围，加强缔约国团结和协商一致精神，推动本届会议取得成功。中国代表团将与您和其他代表团积极合作，为顺利完成本届会议各项工作而共同努力。

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特·阿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以下问题的看法。

首先，禁化武组织作为国际军控和裁军机制的重要组成部分，在推动实现“无化武世界”、促进化工领域国际合作、维护国际安全稳定方面发挥着不可或缺的独特作用。然而令人担忧的是，缔约国在一些敏感问题上的政治分歧和对抗影响了禁化武组织正常工作的开展。6月11日，中国国务委员兼外长王毅在日内瓦裁军特别会议就推进国际军控、裁军与防扩散进程提出三点原则：要坚持合作共赢，以合作谋和平、以合作促

安全，坚决抵制冷战思维和零和博弈，致力于实现共同安全；要坚守公平正义，加强以联合国为核心的多边裁军机制的权威性和有效性，摒弃例外主义和双重标准，致力于实现普遍安全；要坚持综合治理，既要着力应对当前突出的安全挑战，又要综合施策，消弭潜在安全威胁，致力于实现持久安全。这三条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

其次，化武销毁方面，全面、彻底销毁化学武器是《公约》的核心内容和目标。中方注意到近年来库存化武销毁所取得的进展，敦促唯一的化武拥有国切实履行《公约》义务，按照缔约国大会关于化武销毁逾期的决定，在规定时限内完成销毁。

销毁遗弃化学武器是《公约》的重要组成部分，关乎“无化武世界”的目标能否实现。面对新冠肺炎疫情影响，中方克服诸多困难，做了大量工作，与日方就防疫方案达成一致，推动哈尔巴岭销毁工作于今年5月重新启动。考虑到日方关于2022年内完成有关销毁工作的承诺，当前总体销毁进程仍然严重滞后。中方敦促日方切实履行遗弃国责任，加大投入稳步推进销毁进程，并妥善处理污染土壤等突出问题。中方将与日方以及技秘处继续保持沟通、加强协调，并将一如既往做好相关协助工作。

第三，关于叙利亚化武问题，中方始终主张对话合作是解决叙化武问题的唯一正确途径。中方注意到总干事和叙利亚散发的相关报告，鼓励叙方与技秘处继续保持接触和对话，推动叙化武初始宣布澄清等未决问题取得积极进展。同时，我们呼

吁国际社会为双方不断加强合作、解决未决问题创造条件，而不是否认甚至阻挠这些努力。

中方一贯反对任何国家、组织或个人在任何情况下、出于任何目的使用化武。对于指称使用化武事件，应严格依照《公约》以及相关核查附件的规定，秉持公正、客观、专业的原则开展调查和处理。调查结论应基于事实，经得起时间和历史的检验。对于“调查鉴定组”工作，中方从一开始就强调其成立超出《公约》授权，并对其工作方法、程序及人员构成存在关切。中方呼吁有关各方尽快回归多边主义原则，推动指称使用化武调查工作回归《公约》框架，避免进一步在缔约国之间制造矛盾和对抗，停止将禁化武组织的工作不断政治化，共同维护《公约》的权威性和完整性。

最后，中方鼓励主席、副主席和各协调员继续发挥积极作用，推动各个磋商机制采取措施改进工作方法，全面、平衡推进《公约》各项工作。

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公众网站和内网。

谢谢主席。