

Statement By H.E. Ambassador Tan Jian,
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China to the OPCW,
At the General Debate of the Ninety-Eighth Session of
the Executive Council

(The Hague, 5 October 2021)

Mr. Chairman,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to welcome you to chair another session of the Executive Council. China is confident that you will fully draw upon your rich diplomatic experience and skills, to improve the work and the atmosphere of the Council, uphold the tradition of consensus-seeking among States Parties, and make this session a full success. The Chinese delegation wishes to assure you and other delegations of its support and cooperation to complete the proceedings of this session smoothly.

The Chinese delegation has noted the statement by the Director-General and reports by the Vice-Chairpersons. 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. Here, please allow me to further elaborate China's position on the following issues.

First, as an integral part of the international arms control and disarmament regime, the OPCW plays an irreplaceable 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 the current atmosphere of politicization in the Organization has adversely affected its normal operation. On September 21, at the Seventy-sixth Session of the United Nations General Assembly, China's President Xi Jinping called upon all countries to practice true multilateralism, safeguard the international order underpinned by international law, reject small circles and zero-sum game, and resolve differences and problems through dialogue and cooperation on the basis of equality and mutual respect. These principles also apply to the OPCW. China calls on all parties to return to our tradition of seeking consensus, make collective efforts to improve the working atmosphere in the OPCW, and uphold the authority and effectiveness of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention") in earnest.

Second, the comprehensive and complete destruction of chemical weapons is the core purpose and object of the Convention. China urges the only Possessor State to effectively implement its Treaty obligations by completing the destruction within the timeframe established by the relevant decision of the Conference of States Parties on the extension of the deadline for CW destruction.

The destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (hereinafter "ACW") constitutes an important component of the Convention, on which the realization of "a world free of chemical weapons" hinges. The Covid-19 pandemic has posed serious challenges to the work of Japanese ACW destruction. Against the backdrop, China endeavored to facilitate the steady resumption of the destruction at Haerbaling. However, the overall destruction process still lags far behind the schedule. China urges Japan to earnestly fulfil its obligations as an Abandoning State by stepping up its inputs, to complete the destruction at its soonest, and properly address such prominent issues as the contaminated soil. China will continue its cooperation with Japan and the Secretariat, and provide its assistance as always.

Third, on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, China has all along advocated that this issue can only be resolved through dialogue and cooperation. China has noted the relevant reports circulated by the Director-General and by Syria. China encourages the Secretariat and Syria to continue cooperation and communication, collaboratively resolve the outstanding issues regarding the Syria's initial declaration on chemical weapons. The international community, on the other hand, should create favorable conditions for dialogue between the two sides, instead of impeding such efforts by exerting political pressure.

China is consistently opposed to the use of chemical weapons by any state, organization or individual under any circumstance for any purpose. China maintains that the incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons 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 independence. The investigation should be based on solid facts, and come to the conclusions that can stand the test of time and history. China calls upon the relevant parties to engage in communication and cooperation following the principles of mutual respect and consultation on an equal footing, to address the relevant issues properly before jumping to any conclusions, and to avoid politicization or any actions that will further exacerbate the tension.

Fourth, China attaches great importance to international cooperation. The Convention explicitly provides for the guarantee of States Parties' rights for economic and technological development, promotion of international exchange and cooperation for peaceful purposes,

and cooperation and assistance, at States Parties' request, in the area of national implementation and protection against chemical weapons. All States Parties should fully recognize the crucial role of international cooperation in material, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes in promoting economic and social development for States Parties, especially the developing countries amongst them. China calls on all States Parties, without prejudice to their non-proliferation obligations, to take concrete measures to foster international cooperation, and to avoid taking unnecessary restrictive measures.

Fifth, on the 2022-2023 biennial programme and budget, China noted that it has broken the established practice of "zero nominal growth". Given the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on global economy and fiscal policies of the States Parties, China suggests that the Secretariat distribute the existing resources proportionally, regulate the budget growth, and ensure the inputs on core programmes such as chemical weapons destruction, international cooperation and etc. Regrettably, the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) related expenditure has been listed again in the draft budget. China maintains that the establishment of the IIT went beyond the mandate of the Convention, and is therefore not in favour of funding the IIT activities with the regular budget.

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 its working methods, so as to advance all the Convention-related work 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 both 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 98 届执理会一般性辩论发言

(2021 年 10 月 5 日，海牙)

主席先生，

请允许我代表中国代表团欢迎你再次主持执理会。中方相信你将充分利用你的外交经验和技巧，改善执理会工作和氛围，维护协商一致传统，推动本届执理会取得成功。中国代表团将与你及其他代表团密切合作，为顺利完成本届执理会各项工作而努力。

中方认真听取了总干事所作发言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作的发言。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体系的重要组成部分，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替代的作用。然而令人担忧的是，当前禁化武组织内的政治化氛围影响了本组织正常工作的开展。9 月 21 日，中国国家主席习近平在第七十六届联合国大会上指出，各国应践行真正的多边主义，维护以国际法为基础的国际

秩序，摒弃小圈子和零和博弈，通过在平等和相互尊重基础上开展对话合作解决分歧和矛盾。这对禁化武组织的工作同样适用。中方呼吁各方回归协商一致传统，共同努力改善禁化武组织工作氛围，有效维护《禁化武公约》权威性和有效性。

第二，在化武销毁方面，全面、彻底销毁化学武器是《公约》的核心宗旨和目标。中方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，在规定时间内完成销毁。

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。新冠肺炎疫情给日遗化武销毁工作带来严峻挑战。中方克服诸多困难，开展大量工作，推动哈尔巴岭销毁作业稳步恢复，但当前日遗化武总体销毁进程仍严重滞后。中方敦促日方切实履行遗弃国责任，加大投入，尽早完成销毁，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合作，一如既往地做好相关协助工作。

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，鼓励技秘处与叙利亚保持合作与对话，共同解决叙化武初始宣布等未决问题。国际社会应为双方对话合作创造条件，避免政治施压影响相关工作。

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，中方主张依照《公约》以及相关核查附件的规定，秉持客观、公正、独立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。中方呼吁有关各方本着相互尊重、平等协商的原则开展沟通合作，妥善处理有关问题，在此之前不应急于下结论，避免政治化和任何进一步激化矛盾的举措。

第四，中方高度重视国际合作问题。《公约》明确规定应保障缔约国相关经济和技术发展权利，促进用于和平目的的国际交流与合作，应缔约国要求就国家履约、化武防护开展合作与援助。各方应充分认识到为和平目的在材料、设备和技术方面进行国际合作，对促进缔约国、特别是发展中国家经济和社会发展具有重要作用。中方敦促各方在不影响防扩散义务的前提下，采取切实举措促进国际合作，避免采取不必要的限制性措施。

第五，关于2022至2023年度项目和预算问题，中方注意到首个双年度预算突破了“名义零增长”。考虑到新冠肺炎疫情对各国经济和财政政策的影响，中方希望技秘书处合理使用现有资源、控制预算增长，确保在化武销毁、国际合作等核心项目上的投入。令人遗憾的是，预算草案中再次纳入“调查鉴定组”相关费用。中方认为“调查鉴定组”的成立超出《公约》授权，反对用常规预算支付“调查鉴定组”相关活动。

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和内网。

谢谢主席。