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Statement By H.E. Ambassador Tan Jian,
Head of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China,
At the General Debate of the Twenty-Sixth Session of
the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me to extend, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, my congratulations on your election as Chairman of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). The Chinese delegation wishes to assure you and other delegations of its full cooperation to make this session a success. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to H.E. Ambassador José Antonio Zabalgotia Trejo for his excellent work as the Chairman of last session.

China associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Mr. Fikrat Akhundov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. Here, please allow me to further elaborate China's position.

Mr. Chairman,

At a time marked concurrently by unprecedented global changes and a pandemic unseen in a century, today's world needs more than ever to promote peace and development, equity and justice, as well as common security. It is even more important for countries to

join hands in building a community with a shared future for mankind. As an integral part of the global security governance, States Parties of the Convention should follow the mainstream of history, collectively practice the true multilateralism, promote the implementation of the Convention in a comprehensive and balanced manner, and uphold its authority and effectiveness. To this end, China would like to share the following propositions.

First, we should resolutely move forward the process of chemical weapons destruction. The overall and complete destruction of chemical weapons is the core object of the Convention. Next year will mark the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. On this occasion, States Parties should step up their efforts to promote the realization of a world free of chemical weapons. International rules should be adhered to by all countries without exception. China urges the sole Possessor State of chemical weapons to step up inputs, effectively implement its obligation, and complete the destruction as soon as possible.

At the same time, we should advance the destruction process of the chemical weapons abandoned (hereinafter “ACW”) by Japan in the territory of China. With the concerted efforts of China and Japan, the destruction of Japanese ACW at Haerbaling was resumed last May and steady progress has been made in all aspects under appropriate pandemic prevention and control measures. China encourages the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) to explore innovative methodologies in line with the provisions of the Convention to maintain its focus on and inputs in verification, including the verification of the destruction of the Japanese ACW and safeguard its effectiveness against the backdrop of the pandemic. Next year, the destruction of Japanese ACW will reach its important timeframe as agreed by China and Japan, and the OPCW will review the progress of the destruction. China stands ready for consultations with Japan on this matter with a pragmatic, responsible and constructive approach, in an effort to make arrangements as early as possible.

Second, we should work unswervingly to strengthen international cooperation. As a key cornerstone of the Convention, international cooperation stands for the transition direction

of the OPCW. The OPCW should promote development and security, foster international cooperation, and ensure States Parties' full enjoyment of the legitimate right to the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes. China supports the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention through measures such as the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology and the revitalization of the Article XI consultation mechanism. China also supports more inputs into the areas of the concerns of the developing countries. China commends the Secretariat for introducing innovative working methods in taking full advantage of online resources to deliver international cooperation projects and maintain the momentum for such cooperation. China encourages the Secretariat to take stock of good practices in this regard and expand its toolkit for international cooperation.

China has submitted the draft resolution on "Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the Context of International Security" to the First Committee of the 76th General Assembly of the United Nations. Its purpose is to initiate discussions within the UN framework, strike a balance between non-proliferation and peaceful uses, and ensure the peaceful uses and the benefit sharing of the science technology and resources including in the chemistry. It will be conducive to advancing the peaceful uses in different areas in a holistic approach, and encouraging discussions in relevant frameworks, such as that of the CWC. It is sincerely hoped that all parties could actively support and participate in the follow-up process of the UN General Assembly.

Third, strong and steady efforts should be made to safeguard the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. There is only one order in the world, which is the international order underpinned by international law. The CWC constitutes the basis and yardstick for dealing with chemical weapons-related issues. Hence, addressing in compliance with the provisions of the Convention is the only proper way. The incidents of alleged use of chemical weapons in Syria and others should be investigated in a comprehensive, objective and impartial manner in line with the procedures of the Convention. The conclusion should be based on solid evidence, so as to stand the test of history and facts. As for the Navalny case, a constructive and cooperative approach should be taken, and efforts should be made to investigate the truth through dialogue and

consultation. Concerning such issues as the CNS-acting chemicals which constitutes amendment to and reinterpretation of the Convention, it should be made in strict accordance with the amendment procedure of the Convention.

Fourth, steadfast efforts should be made to safeguard the solidarity of the OPCW. Currently, the OPCW is at the crossroad between division and unity, and confrontation and cooperation. Some States Parties deliberately ignore the provisions of the Convention in certain issues and disregard our tradition of seeking consensus. With respect to the attribution of the responsibility of chemical weapons use, the Investigation and Identification Team was established forcibly, which went beyond the mandate of the Convention. In terms of the CNS-acting chemicals, a vote was forced on the proposal concerned even though a consensus has far from being reached. The United States has even added an OPCW-designated laboratory of China to its “Military End User List”, which severely undermined the foundation of mutual trust and cooperation among States Parties, and caused a substantive damage to the work of the OPCW. China recalls on relevant countries to correct their mistakes by stopping poisoning the atmosphere of the OPCW, halting the practice of politicization and jeopardizing authority of the Convention. The OPCW should not turn into a political tool for suppressing dissidents. China also hopes that the Secretariat, in particular the Director General, could maintain an objective and impartial position and perform its work strictly in compliance with its mandate.

Mr. Chairman,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the legitimate seat of the People’s Republic of China in the United Nations. In the past 50 years, China has always been a builder of world peace, a contributor to global development and a defender of the international order. As a founding State Party of the CWC and the second largest contributor to the OPCW budget, China has been consistently dedicated to safeguarding the purposes and objectives of the Convention. China is firmly opposed to the use of chemical weapons by any state, organization or individual under any circumstance for any purpose. China has declared the most industry facilities in the world, and has been subjected to all types of monitoring and verification in a constantly efficient and stringent

manner. Against the backdrop of the pandemic, China has focused its efforts on national implementation, such as promulgating and enacting *the Export Control Law*, starting the amendment to *the Regulations of the PRC on the Administration of Chemicals Subjected to Supervision and Control*, drafting *the Provisional Methods of General License Management for Exporting Monitored and Controlled Chemicals*, as well as hosting training courses for regional implementation authorities and enterprises, in a continuous effort to raise the awareness and enhance capacity for the implementation of the Convention.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement, together with that by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China attached hereto, 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.

Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

According to the “One Country, Two Systems” principle under the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People’s Republic of China (Basic Law), the Central People’s Government has extended the application of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Convention) to the HKSAR. The Government of the HKSAR is responsible for implementation of the Convention in HKSAR.

To ensure the full and effective implementation of the Convention in the HKSAR, the Government of the HKSAR has implemented the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance (the Ordinance) since 2004 to fully implement the requirements of the Convention. The Ordinance prohibits the use, development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retaining, and participating in the transfer of a chemical weapon. The import and export of chemicals under the control of the Convention are regulated under the HKSAR’s strategic trade control system. The Government of the HKSAR has included for control the four new sets of toxic chemicals adopted by the Convention with effect from June 2020.

To control and monitor the production and related activities pertinent to scheduled chemicals as well as unscheduled discrete organic chemicals under the Convention, the Ordinance stipulates that no person shall produce, acquire, retain, use, transfer or consume a scheduled chemical more than the prescribed amount unless a permit has been obtained from the Trade and Industry Department (TID) of the Government of the HKSAR. Besides, all permit holders are required to provide periodic report of the relevant production activities. An operator of chemical facilities is also required to notify the TID if the production of unscheduled discrete organic chemicals exceeds the relevant threshold.

The Customs and Excise Department (C&ED) of the Government of the HKSAR is conferred by the Ordinance with extensive enforcement powers to investigate suspicious cases, including- entering and searching premises, vehicles, vessels or aircrafts; seizing

and forfeiting offending articles; and arresting and prosecuting persons who violate the Ordinance. They are authorized to inspect chemical facilities subject to the permit and notification system. Infringement of the provisions of the Ordinance constitutes a criminal offence. The maximum penalty is life imprisonment upon conviction on indictment by the courts of the HKSAR. The Ordinance also empowers the C&ED to grant the necessary rights to the inspection teams of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) Secretariat to conduct inspections at relevant facilities in the HKSAR pursuant to the Convention.

To fulfill the reporting obligation of making annual declaration to the OPCW, the Government of the HKSAR has been forwarding relevant information to the Central People's Government regularly since 2004. Currently, there is no production or storage of chemical weapons and no declarable chemical facilities in the HKSAR. There are only a small amount of trade activities involving scheduled chemicals of the Convention, which are imported for local research or industrial uses.