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THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10(H)
DRAFT PROGRAMME AND BUDGET OF THE OPCW FOR 2022–2023**

Mr Chairperson,

Please allow me to elaborate China's position on the draft budget.

The programme and budget of the OPCW has an impact on this Organisation's ability to carry out its work in all aspects smoothly. China has always attached great importance to the programme and budget. With regard to the biennial Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2022–2023, China has noted that for the first time, it departs from the established practice of "zero nominal growth". China understands that in light of such factors as staff costs and inflation, there is some merit in the budget modification by the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat"). Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy and fiscal policies of States, however, China encourages the Secretariat to distribute the existing resources more reasonably, regulate budget growth, and guarantee adequate funding for the core programmes such as the destruction of chemical weapons stockpile and the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China, and international cooperation, among others.

China is concerned that in recent years, the Secretariat has diverted a large amount of funds earmarked for international cooperation to cover other expenses of the Organisation. China supports the establishment of a special fund for international cooperation activities, as proposed by the African Group, so as to carry over the unused balance for international cooperation to the following year. China is ready to take part in relevant discussions, in an effort to seek an appropriate arrangement for such transfers.

China has always been of the view that the establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) went beyond the mandate of the Convention, which undermines its authority and effectiveness. China therefore holds its concerns about the IIT-related budget.

Being the second-largest contributor to the OPCW budget, China has made major contributions to this Organisation's work. China calls on the Secretariat and the States Parties concerned to adequately address the concerns of China and other interested countries, and to create favourable conditions for the successful consideration of the 2022–2023 biennial Budget.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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