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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 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9
"DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OPCW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION IN 2021"**

Mr Chairman,

China has noted with concern that the "Draft Annual Report of the OPCW on the Implementation of the Convention in 2021" uses a large space to describe the work of the so-called "Investigation and Identification team (IIT)" on the Syrian chemical weapons dossier.

China's position on the Syrian chemical weapons dossier is consistent and clear-cut. This issue should be addressed strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (referred to as "Convention" hereinafter). The mandate and the working methodology of the so-called "IIT" are contrary to the spirit of the Convention. Since its establishment, it has been questioned by many states including China. At the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties last year, States Parties had a heated debate on the paragraphs relating to the "IIT" which were contained in the annual report on the implementation in 2020. And a vote was held on them, which undermined our tradition of consensus and set a very bad precedent.

China emphasises that since it is a report on the implementation of the Convention by the OPCW, the annual report is not limited to the activities carried out by the Secretariat. Therefore, the drafting of the report should take into account the reasonable concerns of States Parties and be adopted by consensus, so as to maintain the authority and validity of the Convention effectively. At the same time, China is willing to be flexible and not to block the submission of the report to the Conference of the States Parties for consideration. Specifically, the Chinese side is concerned about the paragraphs in the draft report regarding "the decision on the attribution of the responsibility for the use of chemical weapons" and "the IIT", namely, paragraph 7 in the preamble and paragraphs 1.23, 1.24, and 1.34 to 1.42 in the text. Therefore, the Chinese delegation will not participate the submission of this draft report. The secretary of the session is requested to place this statement by the Chinese delegation on record, and have it duly reflected in the report of this session. Meanwhile, this delegation requests that this statement be distributed as an official document of this session and published on the OPCW public website and extranet.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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