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**Executive Council**

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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 6(B)  
"IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AND  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON DESTRUCTION-RELATED ISSUES"**

Mr Chairman,

At present, the pandemic is yet spreading throughout the world. As a result, the disposal of Japanese ACWs has been adversely affected. China has thus taken multiple measures and acted proactively to overcome the impact of the pandemic and advance various tasks. The first was to maintain a close communication with the Japanese side through videoconferencing, telephone, email and other means, adjust the plans of operation timely, and push the Japanese side to strengthen its management of the pandemic prevention and control for its personnel working in China. The second was to ensure properly the operation and maintenance of and the support for the destruction sites, the entry into China and quarantine of the Japanese personnel, and their closed-loop transfer and access to the facilities, and provide convenience for the Japanese operators in China as much as possible. The third was to formulate a meticulous anti-pandemic program according to the actual situation of each operation site, strengthen training drills and daily prevention and control measures, and exchange information with the Japanese side, so as to ensure the health and safety of the Chinese and Japanese personnel. Fourthly, it was agreed with the Japanese side and the Technical Secretariat that a new round of tripartite consultation will be held in mid-July, focusing on the communication on the remote inspection of the destruction of the Japanese ACWs. The Chinese side will concentrate on coping with the normalization of the pandemic prevention and control, continue to coordinate the relevant work, and make every effort to reduce the impact of the pandemic.

In addition, I would like to take this opportunity to inform the Executive Council that due to the impact, the visit to the Japanese ACW destruction facilities in China by the Director-General and the Executive Council delegation to China due in 2021 was forcibly postponed. Taking into account the current pandemic situation and China's prevention and control policy, China has reached agreement in principle with the Japanese side and the Secretariat that it will invite the DG and the EC delegation to pay their visit to the facilities in China through videoconferencing. The specific time and relevant arrangements are yet to be separately agreed upon. And an official invitation to the DG and the EC will be extended in due course.

Mr Chairman,



The early thorough and complete destruction of Japanese ACWs is directly related to the safety of the lives and property of the Chinese people and the ecological safety in China. It represents Japan's political responsibility and international obligation in the process to implement the Chemical Weapons Convention (referred to as "Convention" hereinafter), as well as the memorandum signed between the governments of China and Japan. Over the past 20 years, with the joint efforts made by China and Japan, positive progress has been made in the disposal of Japanese ACWs. However, the destruction remains yet too far from its completion. As time goes by, this task is becoming more and more urgent. The Japanese side undertook to make every effort to complete the destruction of the Japanese ACWs buried at Haerbaling by the end of 2022 and the Japanese chemical weapons declared to the OPCW before the end of 2016. As it appears now, this goal cannot be attained, and the destruction of Japanese ACWs is bound to fail to meet its deadline for the 4th time. The Chinese side is deeply concerned about this situation, and strongly demands that Japan increase its inputs in specialized personnel, technology, equipment, funds, etc., and speed up the destruction process in an all-round way.

China is ready to work closely with Japan in safely and successfully completing the 2022 operations conducted in Haerbaling, Harbin, Jiamusi, Shangzhi, Hunchun and other locations, and starting the construction of additional destruction facilities in Haerbaling as scheduled. China is prepared to continue actively its consultations with the Japanese side on various other operation plans concerning Haerbaling and the high-mobility destruction, and step up the consultation on formulating a destruction plan after 2022, in order to try and submit it to the Council for deliberation in October. It is hoped that Japan will finalize its mid-to-long-term overall plan as soon as possible, and specify the timetables for the completion of various tasks.

Mr Chairman,

There remain large quantities of suspect Japanese ACWs in various parts of China which have been communicated to Japan, but which the latter has not yet dealt with. This has not only greatly increased the pressure on China for their storage and risk of causing accidents, but also badly delayed the overall destruction process. It is hoped that Japan will take its responsibility in earnest, and send missions to come to China as soon as possible to conduct operations of on-site investigation, identification, packing, excavation and recovery. In addition, the Japanese side has never provided to China detailed and accurate information on Japanese ACWs. As a result, China has not been able to have a full knowledge on their quantities and the burial locations, and can, thus, only passively discover and deal with them urgently. This greatly increases the risk of Japanese ACWs causing injuries to the people and harming the ecological environment, while objectively tarrying the destruction process. China strongly urges Japan to mobilize its domestic and foreign channels extensively, augment its data collection efforts, and provide China with more of detailed and accurate information and clues as soon as possible, so as to enable the proactive discovery of Japanese ACWs and their recovery and destruction.

Mr Chairman,

Since Japanese ACWs have been buried underground for decades, most of the shells are rusted. And the leakage of their poisonous agents as well as the fractures and ruptures of the toxic gas cylinders cause pollution to the soil. The typical feature of it is that the arsenic content exceeds the requisite standard. From the perspective of either the real threat posed by Japanese ACWs to the lives of the Chinese people and China's ecological environment, to the Convention and the relevant MOU between China and Japan, the Japanese side should include the water and

soil contaminated by the leakage said above into the scope of the objects of destruction. This is the fundamental purpose of the thorough and complete destruction of Japanese ACWs. It is hoped that Japan will rectify its attitude, shoulder its responsibility and solve the problem of polluted soil at an early date.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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