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**PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR TAN JIAN  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO  
THE OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to begin by welcoming you back to the Chair of the Executive Council. China is confident that you will make full use of your diplomatic experience and skills to improve the work and the atmosphere of the Council, preserve the tradition of consensus and bring this session to a success. The Chinese delegation will actively support your work.

China has carefully listened to the statement made by the Director-General and the reports by the Vice-Chairpersons of the Council. China associates itself with the statement made by His Excellency Fikrat Akhundov of Azerbaijan on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China. Now, please allow me to elaborate on China's positions further.

At present, the centennial changes and the pandemic of the century are intertwined, the Cold-War mentality is back haunting, the international security situation is deteriorating, and global strategic balance and stability are facing severe challenges. Against this background, the leaders of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization issued the Samarkand Declaration last month, which calls for full compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") as an effective disarmament and non-proliferation instrument; stresses the importance of the speedy destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles; reaffirms the support for OPCW and call for agreed decisions to overcome the divisions within the Organization and to ensure its integrity and effective operation in accordance with the Convention. The spirit of that declaration provides an important guidance and ideas for firmly promoting the purposes and objectives of the Convention and jointly preserving its authority and effectiveness. China is willing to further share the following observations with all parties:

Firstly, uphold the vision of shared security and make every effort to press ahead with the destruction of chemical weapons. The complete and thorough destruction of chemical weapons constitutes the core object of the Convention, and exerts an impact on the building of "a world free from chemical weapons". Since last year, China has worked hard to overcome the impact of the pandemic, and helped advance the destruction of Japanese ACWs steadily on the precondition of ensuring the prevention and control of the pandemic. Last month, China and Japan jointly invited the Director-General and the EC delegates to virtually visit the Haerbaling facility, the largest burial site of Japanese ACWs in China, in order to effectively enhance the understanding of all parties on the urgency and importance of the destruction.



The comprehensive, complete and thorough destruction of ACWs at an early date has an impact on the safety of the Chinese people's lives and property and on the ecological security in China. It represents Japan's political responsibility and international obligation in the process of implementing the Convention and the relevant MOU reached between the Chinese and the Japanese government. However, the deadline for the destruction of ACWs has been repeatedly extended. At this session, the Council will consider the draft decision on the extension once again of the destruction deadline. China is deeply concerned about Japan's failure to complete the destruction by the deadline specified in the Convention and the Council's relevant decision, and strongly urges Japan to increase its personnel, technology and financial inputs, make every effort to ensure that the destruction is completed by 2027 pursuant to the new decision, and solve the problem of the contaminated soil as soon as possible in a responsible way. China will continue to provide necessary assistance. China also notes the progress made in the destruction of CW stockpiles in recent years, and urges the sole CW stockpile possessor state to complete the destruction at an early date.

Secondly, stick to the principle of joint consultation and attach importance to the legitimate concerns of all parties. The essence of multilateralism lies in the fact that international issues are to be handled through joint consultation, and that the future and destiny of the world are in the hands of all countries. However, it is a matter of concern that some states have, for geopolitical purposes, abandoned the tradition of consensus in the OPCW, resorted to voting on some issues which had not been fully discussed, had been far from any consensus reached on them, and had even gone beyond the scope of the Convention. This has seriously eroded the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. With regard to the incidents of alleged use of CWs, we should strictly go by the Convention as the yardstick, take facts as the basis, conduct comprehensive, objective and impartial investigations, and draw conclusions which will stand the test of facts and time. Full attention should be paid to the reasonable security concerns of all sides. The States Parties should encourage relevant parties to act in a reciprocal manner, create a sound atmosphere of cooperation for having dialogue and consultation, and firmly oppose the creation of divisions and confrontation in the OPCW.

Thirdly, stay faithful to the original intention of common development and deepen the cooperation in the peaceful use. International cooperation is one of the important pillars of the Convention as well as a key direction of the future work of OPCW. All countries should take exclusive approach to development and security, balance non-proliferation and the peaceful uses, take concrete actions to promote international cooperation, and ensure that the States Parties will fully enjoy the legitimate rights and interests for the peaceful use. China appreciates the actions taken by the Secretariat to innovate its working methods, make full use of online resources to carry out international cooperation projects and maintain the momentum of international cooperation. China encourages the Secretariat to summarize good experiences and practices, and enrich the toolbox of international cooperation constantly. All parties should take advantage of the establishment of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology, to jointly draw a bright blueprint for fostering the international cooperation in the peaceful use of chemistry.

Last year, the First Committee of the 76th Session of the UN General Assembly adopted the resolution, of which China had been the main sponsor, on "Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the Context of International Security". This year, China will repropose the above-mentioned resolution to the First Committee of the seventy-seventh session of the United Nations General Assembly, with the feedbacks from various countries

incorporated in it. The resolution calls for the initiation of a discussion process in the framework of the United Nations to ensure the peaceful use and the inclusive sharing of the technology and resources in the relevant fields including chemistry. The OPCW is an important platform for implementing this resolution. China calls on all parties to support an active engagement.

Fourthly, adhere to forward-looking orientation and constantly reinforce the authority of the Convention. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention and the establishment of the OPCW. Next year, the Fifth Review Conference of the Convention will be held, which will have the great significance of inheriting the past and ushering in the future for the Convention and the OPCW. At the same time, the OPCW is also standing at the crossroad of division and unity, and confrontation and cooperation. States Parties should take the Fifth Review Conference as an opportunity, proceed from the purposes of maintaining the authority of the Convention, foster the unity of the OPCW and promote the realization of “a world free of chemical weapons”. States Parties should review the achievements and formulate a pragmatic and effective strategy for the next stage of the OPCW, making new contributions to the international arms control and disarmament process. China expects the OEWG to play a constructive role in bridging differences, promoting consensus among States Parties, and yield positive results for the Fifth Review Conference. China is committed to engaging in the preparation of the Fifth Review Conference, and working with all the other parties in upholding the shared, comprehensive and cooperative and sustainable security vision, practicing the true multilateralism and continuously enhancing the universality, authority and effectiveness of the Convention.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official-series document of this session and published on the OPCW’s public website and Catalyst.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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