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VIET NAM

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR PHAM VIET ANH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

I join others in congratulating you, H.E. Ambassador Vusimuzi Madonsela on your election as Chair for this year's Conference of the States Parties. Viet Nam has full confidence in your able leadership and guidance and assures you of our full support. I thank OPCW Director-General of OPCW Fernando Arias and the Technical Secretariat for their hard work over the past year.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished Representative of the delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Mr Chairperson, the Conference this year convenes against a unique backdrop of multiple crises. A raging global pandemic causes much disruption and devastation in the world. Confrontational conflicts continue to intensify. The threat of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons, are at its high point. These matters combined have made the international security climate more volatile which has not seen in decades.

In that gloomy picture, we must spare no effort to strengthen international solidarity, multilateralism and partnerships to address global issues, including the risk of chemical weapons. In commemorating the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention"), this Conference of the States Parties is a timely opportunity for States Parties to renew our political commitment to fulfil the promise of "a world free of chemical weapons and the peaceful application of chemistry for all".

It has always been Viet Nam's consistent policy to support non-proliferation and verified disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. We categorically condemn uses of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances. The use of these weapons is a flagrant violation of international law and presents an immediate threat to the lives and living environment of civilians.

We reaffirm our strong commitment to the Convention and support to the OPCW as the leading international Organisation for the implementation of the Convention. The Organisation and its organs and bodies should strictly abide by the Convention and operate in a comprehensive, full,



objective and impartial manner, without politicisation. It is also important that States Parties should promote constructive dialogue and cooperation on the basis of mutual respect and understanding to resolve differences and to realise the common objectives of the Convention.

Viet Nam has always been an active member of OPCW since its inception in 1998. In the words of the OPCW Director-General, ‘Viet Nam is one of the first countries that have established the legal framework which reflects its commitment to implement the commitments’. Over the years, Viet Nam enjoys the cooperation and assistance of the Technical Secretariat to fulfil its obligations of annual declarations and verifications of DOC, DOC PFS facilities as well as hosting the Convention’s events for chemical safety and security for the Asia regions. It can be reflected in the support of the OPCW to Vietnam for the process of revision of ‘Law on Chemicals’ in the period of 2023-2025 to enhance the implementation of the Convention and the chemical security.

In this connection, we look forward to continued assistance and technical support by the OPCW for States Parties, including Viet Nam, to enhance their capacity of implementation of the Convention and to develop chemical industry for peaceful purposes.

Mr Chairperson, I wish to conclude my statement by reiterating Viet Nam’s unwavering commitment to fulfil our obligations under the Convention and we look forward to cooperating closely with all States Parties and the OPCW in this endeavour.

We request that our statement be processed as an official-series document and published on the OPCW external server and public website.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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