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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 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairman,

China took note of the progress report circulated recently by the DG on the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, as well as the related documents submitted by Syria. The Chinese delegation also noted the progress of the bilateral cooperation and the pending issues. With respect to the Syrian chemical weapons, China's position is consistent and explicit. Since this position was repeated in detail many times at the previous sessions, I would not elaborate here, but only underscore the following points:

Firstly, the willingness for cooperation which Syria has shown should be fully acknowledged. According to the latest monthly report of the DG, the TS conducted the 9th round of inspection at the SSRC from 11 to 18 September. Recently, Syria also proposed to organize a preliminary meeting in Beirut to discuss the agenda of and the logistic arrangements for the high-level meeting between the DG and the Syrian Foreign Minister.

China commends Syria for its effort in supporting the work of the TS despite its severe domestic security situation. The Chinese delegation looks forward to the holding of the high-level meeting and the 25th round of technical consultation at an early date. All parties should fully acknowledge Syria's good faith for cooperation and the positive results of the bilateral cooperation, and work to create a favourable atmosphere for subsequent cooperation. The TS should adopt a flexible and pragmatic approach, communicate and consult with Syria on the basis of equality and mutual respect, and jointly contribute to resolving the pending issues.

Secondly, investigations should be carried out strictly in compliance with the Convention. The Convention and its Verification Annex explicitly specify the investigation mechanism on how to address the incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons. Any investigation into the incidents of the alleged use of chemical weapons should be conducted with the Convention taken as the yardstick, and on the basis of facts, so as to draw a conclusion that can stand the test of facts and time. For geopolitical purpose, some states sidestepped the existing mechanism under the Convention by establishing the Investigation and Identification Team and the attribution mechanism, which are beyond the mandate of the Convention. They have thus severely undermined the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. The Chinese delegation calls on the TS to keep to its technical nature, work to improve the politicized atmosphere in the Organization and preserve its professionalism and credibility effectively.



Thirdly, the security concerns of all parties should be given full attention. The Chinese delegation noted that, through its monthly reports, Syria continuously provided to the TS the information on the terrorist organizations and armed groups which possessed and used CWs in Syria. As all parties have been engaged recently in in-depth discussions on chemical anti-terrorism, it is hoped that the TS will pay as much attention to the issue of the anti-terrorism in Syria, conduct timely, objective and impartial investigations and have this matter reflected in the report concerned.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

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