



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.68
5 October 2022
CHINESE and ENGLISH only

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(G)**

Mr Chairman,

The Chinese delegation listened carefully to the statements made by all parties on this item yesterday afternoon and this morning. This topic involves multiple cases of the alleged use or the threat of use of chemical weapons, as well as the principled issue of "the decision on accountability". Here, I would also like to elaborate on China's relevant position and proposition.

First of all, China's position on the alleged use of chemical weapons is consistent and clear. China firmly opposes the use of chemical weapons by any country, organization or individual under any circumstance and for any purpose. As for how to deal with such problems, the Convention and its Verification Annex enshrine explicit and detailed provisions, and the OPCW should address them in an independent, objective and impartial manner. China believes that no matter in which State Party the alleged use or the threat of use of chemical weapons occurs, the OPCW should take actions in response without discrimination, rather than take the selective approach of establishing any specific mechanism aimed at any specific country.

Secondly, it is an objective fact that different parties have lots of disputes over "the decision on accountability". Procedurally, it was by a vote that the Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2018 decided that that decision conformed to the CSP Rules of Procedure. However, China believes that the compliance with the Rule of Procedure cannot cover up the fundamental matter that in substance, the decision went beyond the scope of the mandate of the Convention, which is the root cause of the constant disputes over the past four years. The Convention is the fundamental law of the OPCW, and the mandate of the OPCW comes from the Convention. If the OPCW was given a mandate through a CSP decision which got beyond the framework the Convention, wasn't it a violation of the Convention? Even if it was indeed necessary to award the OPCW a mandate beyond that framework, shouldn't reasonable and lawful actions be taken following an amendment of the Convention? If "the decision on accountability" could be adopted this time, would any other CSP decision beyond the mandate of the Convention be adopted next time? How, then, can the seriousness and authority of the Convention be spoken of? And how can the professionalism and independence of the OPCW be guaranteed? "The decision accountability" has already caused a great division and confrontation among the States Parties. It is China's view that the investigation of the alleged use of chemical weapons should revert to the framework of the Convention, and ensure its compliance with the procedure, reliable evidence and credible conclusions, so as to preserve the authority and effectiveness of the Convention in earnest.



Thirdly, on the specific related issues, China calls on the relevant parties to hold dialogues and have cooperation with one another on the principles of mutual respect and consultation on an equal and in a constructive manner, and jointly explore reasonable solutions to their shared concerns. Any action taken by all parties should be truly conducive to solving the problem, and should not become a means of political pressure. Until the truth is found out, no party should engage in the practice of the "presumption of guilt".

The Chinese 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.

--- 0 ---