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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 FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF
THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Viet Nam delegation, I would like to welcome H.E. Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the OPCW as the Chairperson of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fifth Review Conference). I believe that, with his full of experience, the Chairperson will successfully steer the Conference.

This year marks a milestone in the common efforts of States Parties to make our planet safer and more peaceful. The complete destruction of all declared stockpiles is a momentous occasion and a testament to the power of diplomacy, multilateralism and respect for an international system based on international law.

In this context, we believe that the Fifth Review Conference is an opportunity for the States Parties to step up dialogue, reduce differences, and work towards a world without chemical weapons in line with the goal of Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

Viet Nam affirms its consistent stance in support of the non-proliferation and verified disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons. We condemn all uses of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances and for any purpose. We affirm our commitment to the full and responsible implementation of the Convention. We also support international cooperation to enhance capacity building in the Convention implementation and the development of chemical industry for peaceful purposes.

Therefore, Viet Nam would like to propose the following:

First, Viet Nam asks the OPCW and the international community to strengthen support for developing countries in fulfilling their commitments and obligations.

Second, the work of the OPCW must strictly comply with the provisions of the Convention and it should be open, transparent, objective, and not politicised. Viet Nam calls on the OPCW



to promote its functions and capabilities in ensuring the countries' legitimate rights and interests regarding the development of chemical industry for peaceful purposes. We support the shift of OPCW's priority from chemical weapons destruction to the prevention of the threat of chemical weapons and the development of chemical industry in a safe and secure manner. This is consistent with the actual status quo and the OPCW's annual budget as well as members' voluntary contributions should be distributed accordingly in an appropriate manner.

Third, all parties should promote the role of the ChemTech Centre in improving the capacity building of the States Parties and open up opportunities for State Party officials to work at the ChemTech Centre, especially those from developing countries. Viet Nam would like to acknowledge the geographical balance in OPCW's appointment and recruitment of personnel, which will make better use of human resources and expertise from developing countries. We support efforts in setting up and expanding the network of regional centres to coordinate best practices and resources in the implementation of Convention, including the initiative to establish the centre for ASEAN regional Chemical Weapons Convention capability hub.

In addition, we also suggest that the OPCW consider supporting the capacity building of laboratories in countries in need, including Viet Nam, through the provision of new or used analytical equipment after the upgrade of the ChemTech Centre.

Fourth, Viet Nam acknowledges the way in which the draft provisional document and conclusions for the Fifth Review Conference were adopted by consensus of all the States Parties.

I would like to request to have this statement issued as an official document of the Fifth Review Conference and published on the OPCW's public website and external server.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson. Thank you all for your kind attention.

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