

**Statement by Ambassador TAN Jian,
Head of the Chinese Delegation, During the General Debate
of the 109th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW
(The Hague, 8 July 2025)**

Mr. Chairperson,

The Chinese delegation congratulates you on your election as the chairperson of the Executive Council. This delegation welcomes the opening statement made by the Director-General and the respective reports by the vice-chairpersons. China associates itself with the statement made by the ambassador of Uganda on behalf of “the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China”. Now, I would like to elaborate on China’s positions further.

Mr. Chairperson,

The current international situation is one with chaos and turbulences entangled. Unilateralism, protectionism and hegemonism are rampant. Regional hotspot issues emerge incessantly. The risk of arms race is mounting. And the world is facing the danger of regressing to the law of the jungle where the strong preys on the weak. China put forward three major global initiatives on development, security and civilization, advocate the building of a community with a shared future for mankind, and inject valuable stability and positive energy into an uncertain world.

China calls on all sides to uphold the vision of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, fully implement the Chemical Weapons Convention, and jointly safeguard the authority and effectiveness of the Convention. In this connection, China wishes to highlight the following propositions:

Firstly, accelerating the destruction of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China(JACWs). This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People’s War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, a monumental victory for the just cause of mankind worthy of commemoration. Regrettably, however, 80 years have passed but the Chinese territory and people are still suffering from the horrible consequences of that war. As the perpetrator, Japan must earnestly fulfill its international obligations by destroying all JACWs as soon as possible. That is also a test of the attitude of the Japanese government on historical issues. China urges Japan to bridge the

gap between its inputs made and the tasks to be done, accelerate excavation, recovery and destruction process, and properly resolve the issue of the contaminated soil. China also hopes that the OPCW and the international community will reinforce their monitoring and verification of the destruction of the JACWs and work jointly to push Japan to destroy the JACWs thoroughly and as soon as possible.

Secondly, adhering to true multilateralism. Multilateralism is indispensable, and dialogue and consultation remain the only way to resolving CW-related hotspot issues. The OPCW should keep to its technical nature, serving as a platform for dialogue and cooperation, rather than a tool manipulated by selfish political interests. China encourages the Technical Secretariat(TS) and Syria to resolve the Syrian CWs dossier properly through dialogue and cooperation. China has noted the report circulated by the TS on the technical assistance visit to Ukraine as well as Russia's note verbales, as well as the allegation made by some states against Sudan for its use of CWs and Sudan's response to it. All allegations must be handled strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, ensuring that the conclusion of the relevant investigation can stand the test of history. The "Investigation and Identification Team" and other accountability mechanisms exceed the mandate of the Convention. China is opposed to solidifying and expanding such accountability mechanisms.

Thirdly, prioritizing the concerns of developing countries. It is necessary to coordinate security and development, make full use of such platforms as the Center for Chemistry and Technology to promote international cooperation in the peaceful use of chemistry, strengthen capacity-building in developing nations, and ensure that all States Parties, especially developing countries, fully enjoy their legitimate rights to peaceful use. Of the 193 States Parties of the Convention, the developing nations account for the majority. We should therefore attach great importance to their requirements and expand their participation. Their legitimate concerns on such issues as geographical representation, tenure policy and the rules of voting for elections should be actively responded to and properly addressed. On all the key issues, it is necessary to hold extensive, transparent and adequate consultations, take full heed of the views of all sides, particularly those of the developing nations and avoid forced agendas, hasty decisions, or predetermined conclusions.

Mr. Chairperson,

As artificial intelligence(AI) brings great opportunities while posing

grave challenges to the international community, the development and governance of AI are a common issue for humanity. China has put forward the Global AI Governance Initiative, and pushed for the unanimous adoption at the UNGA of the resolution entitled “Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence”, contributing its wisdom and solutions. China supports and commends the OPCW in leading among international organizations in this respect, and in vigorously discussing the impacts of emerging technologies like AI on its work.

Last month, China and the OPCW successfully co-hosted the OPCW’s first AI capacity-building workshop in Shanghai , promoting AI for good and for all and enhancing the implementation of the Convention. Nearly 50 participants from 29 countries attended the workshop, 80% of whom were from the Global South, exemplifying the Global AI Governance Initiative and the relevant UN resolution. The Chinese delegation will, brief the Council on the outcome of the workshop under the agenda item of “Emerging Technologies”, and hold a side event on the first day of this session. Your attendance at the meeting is most welcome. China is looking forward to working with all States Parties in continuing to strengthen international cooperation and bridging the intelligence divide.

Mr. Chairperson,

China is the second largest contributor to the OPCW budget, paying over 20% of its total, which provides important financial support for the efficient operation of the OPCW. Being the country with the world’s largest chemical industry, China has always submitted high-quality declarations on time , and already received more than 500 industry inspections. While implementing the Convention in an effective and exemplary manner, China has actively backed the OPCW in carrying out international cooperation and capacity-building activities. In addition to the AI capacity-building workshop held in Shanghai I mentioned earlier, China has provided financial and in-kind support for the customs laboratory training courses and Associate Programme, and held a training course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against CW in Xi’an. Within its capabilities, China will continue to make more contributions to the full and effective implementation of the Convention.

The Chinese delegation would like kindly to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and published on the OPCW’s public website and Catalyst.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.