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**Statement by Ambassador Wu Ken During the General Debate
of the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of
the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention**

Mr Chairman,

Please allow me to begin by congratulating you, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, on your election as Chairman of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention for its Twenty-Second Session. The Chinese delegation will fully cooperate with you, and with all the other delegations, in an effort to bring this session to yield positive results. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador Christoph Israng, for his excellent work.

The Chinese delegation thanks the Director-General, His Excellency Ahmet Üzümcü, for his comprehensive work report, and associates itself with the statement made by Ambassador Haifa Aissami of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China. Now, I would like to further elaborate China's relevant positions.

Mr Chairman,

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. China is pleased to see that in the past two decades, the universality of the Convention, being part and parcel of the international security regime, has been constantly enhanced. And in fostering international and regional peace and security, and promoting chemical disarmament and non-proliferation, the Convention and the OPCW have played an indispensable role, and made remarkable achievements. On the other hand, China notes with concern that chemical weapon (CW) destruction has not been fully completed, alleged uses of CWs have occurred, the risks of non-state actors acquiring and using CWs have increased, and there is yet a long and arduous way to go before the goal of a world free from CWs is ever attained.

China believes that under the current circumstances, the OPCW should focus its work on following aspects:

Firstly, continuous and relentless efforts should be made to press CW destruction forward. CW destruction constitutes not only a core object of the Convention, but also the primary task of the OPCW for a very long time to come. The OPCW should continue to ensure its resources inputs in this regard. China welcomes the completion of the destruction by the Russian Federation of its CW stockpiles which marks another step taken by mankind towards the goal of a CW-free world. Meanwhile, efforts should be made towards complete destruction of all remaining CW stockpile at an early date in compliance with the Convention and the relevant decisions adopted by the policy-making organs of the OPCW.

Secondly, the destruction of the CWs abandoned by Japan in China (Japanese ACW) brooks no further delay. Given the fact that the destruction of Japanese ACWs has a direct impact on the realisation of the core objects and purposes of the Convention, the lofty goal of building a world free from CWs will never be truly achieved so long as Japanese ACWs have not been eliminated. Although over 70 years have passed since the end of the Japanese War of Aggression against China, large quantities of Japanese ACWs are still endangering the Chinese people's lives and properties and the ecological and environmental safety in China. Japan should bear the full responsibility for its failure to complete the destruction according to the timeline specified by the Convention. China urges Japan to show its political will, honour its obligation under the Convention faithfully, implement the relevant decision adopted by the Executive Council (Council) of the OPCW, and increase its inputs in the process, so as to ensure the timely completion of the destruction strictly in line with the new destruction plan adopted by the Council at its Eighty-fourth Session.

In June this year, at the invitation by China and Japan, a Council delegation visited the Japanese ACW destruction facility at Haerbaling. China wishes to thank all the parties concerned for their support in that connection. It is believed that through the field visit, members of the delegation have gained a fuller and better virtualized understanding of the general history of Japanese ACWs, the real harm that they pose and the urgency of their destruction. China hopes that the OPCW will continue to ensure its resources allocation for the verification of the destruction, and to keep the issue of Japanese ACWs under review and monitoring through the Council, the Conference of States Parties and the Review Conference.

Thirdly, as a victim of CWs itself, China has always stood firmly opposed to the use of CWs by any state, organization or individual under any circumstances and for any purpose. China welcomes the adoption by consensus by the Council at its Eighty-Sixth Session of the decision on "Addressing the Threat Posed by the Use of Chemical Weapons by Non-State Actors". That was a product of many years' joint efforts by States Parties, and a reflection of the consensus held by the international community on opposing the use of CWs. China will continue to be actively engaged in the deliberations in the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism of the OPCW, and stand ready for reinforced communication and consultations with other parties.

With regard to the allegations of the use of CWs in Syria, China supports the relevant OPCW and UN bodies in conducting full, objective and impartial investigations of the incidents, and come to conclusions which are based on solid evidences and will stand the test of time and facts. As for the existing disagreements on aspects of the investigations, it is China's hope that the parties concerned will bear in mind the maintenance of the unity of the OPCW, comply with the provisions of the Convention in earnest, hold consultations patiently, and work to create favourable conditions for a proper and equitable solution to the issue of the Syrian CWs, and bring about a positive atmosphere for the next phase of a political settlement of the Syrian issue.

Fourthly, as a key cornerstone of the Convention, international cooperation is of vital importance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention. The OPCW should continue to pay high attention to the legitimate rights and reasonable demands regarding international cooperation of the States Parties which are developing nations,

ensure its resources inputs in this field, plan overall and optimise international cooperation programmes, and further explore ways to fully promote international exchanges of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technical information, and to lift undue restrictions on the transfer of chemicals. China commends the Secretariat and the States Parties concerned for their efforts to enhance the implementation of the provisions in regard to international cooperation, and is prepared, alongside all other parties, to play an active role in the effective implementation of the relevant decision adopted by the Conference in 2011.

Fifthly, the Fourth Review Conference will be held at a time when the destruction of CW stockpiles will draw to a close, and that will make the future priorities of the OPCW attract even more attention. In China's view, the Fourth Review Conference should serve to promote in a balanced manner the four pillars of the Convention, namely, chemical disarmament, non-proliferation, international cooperation, and assistance and protection against CWs; the future work of the OPCW should continue to ensure resources allocations for CW destruction, with particular and necessary attention given to ensuring the destruction of Japanese ACWs and its verification; and in parallel to reinforcing verification measures for preventing the reemergence of CWs, due consideration should be given to avoiding additional burdens to States Parties in implementing the Convention. In the process of planning the future priorities of this organization, States Parties should always play a leading role, and decisions should be made on the basis of thorough discussions and consensus.

China will actively participate in the deliberations in the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, and hopes that on the basis of taking account of the interests of all sides and making planning jointly, the working group will come up with results at an early date, for them to be presented to the Fourth Review Conference for consideration.

Mr Chairman,

China has consistently supported the objects and purposes of the Convention, and fulfilled all the obligations under it in earnest. This year marks the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Convention in China. China's national implementation office held a special conference and forum respectively in commemoration of 20 years of the implementation, with a view to fully reviewing and summing up the experiences and achievements in the implementation, and identifying the priorities for the future implementation.

As the State Party with the largest number of declared facilities under Article VI of the Convention, China has, up to date, received altogether 491 OPCW inspections of all categories, with 41 already carried out this year alone, of which there were 30 industry inspections and 11 Japanese ACW inspections.

China has been actively fostering international assistance and cooperation in the framework of the Convention. This year, China and the OPCW joined hands in holding in China an Executive Programme on Integrated Chemicals Management, a training course on assistance and protection against CWs for the Asian region and a training course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against CWs. Through those events, China hoped to have its implementation experiences shared

and assist other states in strengthening their implementation capabilities, thus contributing to the promotion of the universality and effectiveness of the Convention.

Mr Chairman,

China would like to commend the Director-General, H.E. Mr Üzümcü and all the colleagues in the Secretariat for their professionalism and dedication, and thank them for all their efforts in implementing the Convention. China will continue to support the DG and the Secretariat in their work, and strengthen bilateral cooperation in a joint effort to advance the process of building a world free from CWs.

On this occasion, China also wishes to congratulate Ambassador Fernando Arias on his nomination as the next DG, on the basis of the broadest support which he received from the Council. China looks forward to having close cooperation with Ambassador Arias.

Mr Chairman,

The recently concluded Nineteenth National Congress of the Communist Party of China, has drawn up an ambitious blueprint for China's development in the next 30 years. It reflects a bright prospect of the socialism with Chinese characteristics, and instils positive energy into the cause of world peace and development and the pursuit of a better future for humanity. In the report of the Congress, the most fundamental and essential message of the section concerning China's diplomacy is the advancement of the efforts to foster a new type of international relations and build a community with a shared future for mankind. The attainment of the goal of a CW-free world and the safeguarding of the common security of all reflect the universal aspirations of all nations, and serve the shared interests of the international community. They also represent the due principle of building a community of a shared future for mankind. China is willing to work with all other parties in a concerted effort to build a clean and beautiful CW-free world which will enjoy lasting peace, universal security, shared prosperity, and openness and inclusiveness.

The Chinese delegation requests the circulation of this statement as an official document of this session of the Conference.

Now, with your permission, Mr Chairman, I would like to pass the floor to Mr Enoch Yuen, Assistant Director-General of the Trade and Industry Department of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. He will brief the Conference on the efforts made and measures taken by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region for implementing the Convention.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.