

**Statement by Ms Erica Ng,
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the People's Republic of China,
At Second Review Conference, Chemical Weapons
Convention**

(The Hague, the Netherlands, 7 - 18 April 2008)

Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great pleasure for me to attend the Second Review Conference of Chemical Weapons Convention. I would like to provide a quick overview of the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, or HKSAR.

The People's Republic of China is a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the Central People's Government has extended the application of the Convention to the HKSAR. In 2003, the HKSAR Government, in accordance with the "One Country, Two Systems" principle enshrined in the mini-constitution of the Region, enacted the Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance.

HKSAR's commitment to internationally agreed arrangements on the ban of chemical weapons is underlined by the enactment of Chemical Weapons (Convention) Ordinance. Under this over-arching legislation, authority is provided to ban the use, development, production, acquisition, possession and transfer of chemical weapons in HKSAR. Breaches of these provisions constitute offences, and the maximum penalty is life imprisonment upon conviction. To ensure effective enforcement, the Ordinance also provides our customs officers with full

authorities, including the powers to investigate, enter and search premises, vehicles, vessels or aircrafts, seize and forfeit offending articles.

In order to fulfil the Convention's requirements on declarations, the HKSAR has established under the Ordinance a permit and notification system to control and monitor the production and related activities pertinent to scheduled chemicals, as well as unscheduled discrete organic chemicals, or DOC. Under the system, any person who produces, acquires or retains a scheduled chemical in his facility, or uses, transfers or consumes a scheduled chemical in excess of a prescribed amount, must obtain a permit. The permit holder or the operator of a DOC production facility is required to submit to the HKSAR's Trade and Industry Department the operation data of the facility and other relevant information. The facility is also subject to examination and inspection by our customs officers.

The HKSAR Government began to submit in 2004 our declarations to the OPCW through the Central People's Government. Subsequent to the initial report, we duly submitted regular annual declarations regarding the relevant activities. The situation is that HKSAR does not have any chemical weapons storage or production, nor any declarable scheduled chemical facilities. We only have minimal import/export activities that involve scheduled chemicals, and one DOC production facility.

Last but not the least, the Ordinance provides the legal backing for our customs authorities to grant necessary rights to the OPCW Secretariat's inspection teams to facilitate their inspections at relevant facilities pursuant to the Convention.

Apart from providing a sound legislative framework for implementing the Convention, the HKSAR Government has also established a compliance office to ensure effective enforcement. This office involves all relevant departments of the Region to co-ordinate the necessary work arising from the Convention.

In the years ahead, the HKSAR Government will continue to accord priority to strategic commodities control. We will remain to be committed to international collaboration efforts to combat chemical weapons proliferation.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.