



OPCW

Executive Council

Sixty-Ninth Session
10 – 13 July 2012

EC-69/NAT.18
10 July 2012
CHINESE and ENGLISH only

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ZHANG JUN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CHINA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Council. I am convinced that under your guidance, the Council will successfully complete its work in the coming months and achieve fruitful results. To this end, the Chinese delegation will work closely with other delegations to support you and members of the bureau in your endeavours.

Madam Chairperson,

The year 2012 is remarkable in the history of the OPCW. April 29 of this year marked the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Over the past 15 years, States Parties and the Technical Secretariat have worked together vigorously to facilitate the implementation of the Convention and have achieved significant progress, making an important contribution to the safeguarding of world peace and security. Also in this year, the failure by certain countries to meet the final extended destruction deadline posed a serious challenge to the integrity of the Convention and the credibility of the Organisation and caused widespread concern in the international community. And next year, the Third Review Conference will be held, which should aim at an objective review of the operation of the Convention to take stock of the lessons and experiences, and at the same time, a comprehensive planning of future endeavours to ensure the realisation of the core objectives of the Convention. How to achieve that is a major point at issue facing the Organisation.

The Chinese delegation fully associates itself with the comprehensive and systematic statement made earlier by the Cuban delegation on behalf of the NAM States Parties and China. Now, please allow me to further elaborate China's positions.

Firstly, the importance and urgency of the early completion of CW destruction should be fully recognised, and more effective efforts should be made to facilitate the process. The destruction of chemical weapons constitutes the core objective of the Convention. It was also the primary purpose for the establishment of this Organisation. China appreciates the efforts made by possessor States for the destruction of their chemical weapons. However, it must be observed that the failure of certain countries to meet the final extended deadline has resulted



in a series of adverse effects on the Convention and the multilateral disarmament process. This fact should not fade with the elapse of the deadline, but rather serve as a cautionary note, for the OPCW to keep CW disarmament as its top priority task, take all necessary measures to redress the adverse effects caused on the credibility of the Convention, and rebuild confidence of the international community in the integrity of the Convention.

To that end, the decision on the final extended deadline adopted by the Conference of States Parties at its Sixteenth Session should be implemented in letter and spirit within the framework of the Convention. We have noted the destruction plans containing specific completion dates submitted by the countries concerned and their reports to the Council on the progress of destruction. The Chinese delegation urges the possessor States concerned to continue to take all necessary measures in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the requirements of the above-mentioned decision, in order to accelerate their destruction process and strive for an early completion within the timeframes as established in their respective destruction plans. We request that the Secretariat, while carrying out verification of the destruction activities, also make independent and effective evaluations of such progress for consideration by the Policy-Making Organs, and ensure that necessary resource be allocated for this purpose. The Policy-Making Organs of the OPCW, and the Third Review Conference in particular, should attach great importance to the reviews of this issue and adopt necessary measures and make every effort to promote the destruction process.

Secondly, the thorough and complete destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China in the shortest time possible has a direct bearing on the purpose and credibility of the Convention and shall continue to be kept as a priority and major task of the OPCW.

According to the Convention, 29 April 2012 was the final extended deadline for the destruction of Japanese ACWs. This deadline was also confirmed in a decision of the Council. While some progress has been achieved, it is an irrefutable fact that the destruction of Japanese ACWs did not complete within that deadline, and the overall progress of destruction has been seriously delayed and is far from satisfactory. China is very concerned and worried about this.

As the Council has already adopted a decision on the deadline of destruction of Japanese ACWs and approved the attached destruction plan, and a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding on this issue has been signed by China and Japan, the next crucial step will be the full and strict implementation of these legally binding instruments and plan. China urges Japan, as the Abandoning State Party with primary responsibility for destruction, to faithfully honour its obligations under the Convention, carry out destruction activities in strict accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the Verification Annex, fully comply with the requirements of the Council decision and the bilateral Memorandum of Understanding, and make every effort to accelerate the rate of destruction so as to ensure an early completion of destruction within the timeframes established in the destruction plan. China also requests the Third Review Conference and all the Policy-Making Organs to conduct, in accordance with the relevant decisions, effective reviews on the status of the destruction of Japanese ACWs. We welcome the Secretariat to continue its positive role on this issue. China will continue to fulfil its due obligations in accordance with the Convention and maintain its cooperation with all other parties.

Thirdly, for the effective implementation of all the provisions of the Convention, work in various areas should be planned with a holistic approach and carried out in a comprehensive

and balanced manner. In this respect, vigorous efforts should be made to promote the full implementation of the provisions concerning international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited by the Convention and assistance and protection against chemical weapons, which may serve as a catalyst for the full implementation of the Convention by States Parties and give impetus to the efforts to enhance the universality of the Convention. Issues of industry verification should be approached with objectivity and pragmatism, and the refinement of the verification regime should aim at improving its relevance and effectiveness. In so doing, the provisions of the Convention should be observed strictly, resources should be allocated rationally, and factors relating to hierarchy of risks of facilities, geographic distribution of inspections, burdens on States Parties and the role of National Authorities should all be taken into account. At the same time, when exploring possible ways to improve the organisational structure, working method and resource allocation of the Organisation, we should accord as top consideration the realisation of the core objectives of the Convention and meanwhile adopt a vision for the future, which requires the Organisation to increase efficiency of its work and adapt better to the arising needs.

It ought to be pointed out that in planning for the future of the Organisation, States Parties should always play the primary role. China has taken note of the proposals on future work of the Organisation from the independent advisory panel, the external consultant, the committee established within the Secretariat, and from some think tanks. China believes that proposals and suggestions concerning the long-term development of the Organisation should only be put into effect after thorough deliberation and collective decision-making among States Parties. This will serve to preserve the tradition of the Organisation of democratic and transparent decision-making process and also to win maximum support from States Parties.

China values the important role to be played by the Third Review Conference in mapping out the future of the Organisation. We welcome the formal start of work of the open-ended working group for preparations for the Third Review Conference, and believe that under the leadership of its chairperson, the ambassador of Algeria, this working group will, taking into account the actual discussions conducted and all suggestions from Member States, constantly fine-tune its schedule and methods of work, with a view to smoothly producing a draft of the final document and paving the way for a successful Third Review Conference next year.

Madam Chairperson,

As an original State Party, China has been honouring its obligations under the Convention fully and faithfully, developing its relations with the Secretariat in the principle of mutual respect and friendly cooperation, and making contributions to the steady implementation of the Convention and the healthy development of the Organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to announce that for the effective implementation of Article XI and promoting exchanges in the field of chemical industry, China and the Secretariat will jointly organise a regional workshop on Article XI in China in September this year, which will be the first effort of this kind in Asia. Interested States Parties are invited to participate.

The Chinese delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of this Session of the Council.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.