



OPCW

Executive Council

Seventy-Seventh Session
7 – 10 October 2014

EC-77/NAT.27
7 October 2014
CHINESE and ENGLISH only

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR XU CHEN
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF CHINA AT THE
SEVENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

At the outset, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to welcome you back to the Chair of the Executive Council. The Chinese delegation will work closely with you, and with other delegations, in a joint effort to bring the deliberations of all the agenda items of this session to a successful conclusion.

Mr Chairman,

I would like to thank the Director-General as well as the Vice-Chairmen of the Council for their respective reports. The Chinese delegation associates itself with the statement made by H. E. the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. Now, I would like to elaborate China's position further.

Firstly, since September last year, important progress has been made in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons. This is attributed to the concerted efforts made by the Syrian Government, the OPCW, the United Nations and the international community at large. It is also the outcome of the work vigorously carried out by the Council in the spirit of consensus, pragmatism and truthfulness. China welcomes and admires it. China hopes that the parties concerned will maintain a constructive attitude and continue to work towards bringing the destruction of the CWs outside Syria to a close, and pushing forward with the destruction of the Syrian CW production facilities. China will continue to join all the other parties in engaging actively in this process. With respect to the alleged chemical attacks in Syria, at its Forty-Fifth Meeting held just recently, the Council conducted an in-depth discussion of the second report of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM). The Chinese position is explicit and consistent, which is that China stands firmly opposed to the use by anyone of CWs under any circumstances. The Chinese delegation supports the Director-General and the FFM in their efforts to, with personnel safety truly guaranteed, continue to carry out their work in an objective and fair manner.

Secondly, CW destruction constitutes the core objective of the Convention and the primary goal of this Organisation. The CW possessor States and the abandoning State concerned should endeavour to complete the destructions as soon as possible, in accordance with the Convention and the relevant decisions adopted by the policy-making organs of this Organisation. This Organisation should continue to ensure its inputs in this area. Up to now,



the pace of Japanese ACW destruction is noticeably falling behind the schedule in the destruction plan, and China finds this deeply deplorable and worrying. China hopes that the Council will pay further attention to this situation. Due to the lack of information on their burial, Japanese ACWs have been discovered basically by chance or through accidents of casualties. As a result, they pose a grave threat to the lives and properties of the people and the ecological environment in China. Therefore, it brooks no further delay that Japanese ACWs be disposed of as early as possible and destroyed in a safe way. China urges Japan once again to fulfil its obligations under the Convention and implement the relevant Council decision in good faith, and increase its inputs in the process, so as to complete the destruction as quickly as possible.

Thirdly, the Chinese delegation has taken active part in the consultation on the 2015 OPCW Draft Budget and Programme, and is content with the tendency of an annual progressive decrease of the overall budget. This delegation gives its support to the Secretariat in its efforts to readjust the distributions of its human and financial resources according to the future priorities of its work, and draw up the 2015-2019 mid-term plan as well as the mid-to-long-term staffing plan. China hopes that this Organisation will, in its future work, guarantee the input of resources in the verification of the destruction of CW stockpiles and ACWs, and, in its staff recruitment, take due account of the principles of both geographical and gender balance.

Fourthly, international cooperation constitutes a key pillar of the Convention, as well as a major concern of the developing States Parties at large. China always attaches great importance to international cooperation in chemical industry, and has taken a range of practical initiatives for it accordingly. At the moment, States Parties are deliberating, within the informal framework of consultation on international cooperation, on the drafting of a guiding document in this regard. This initiative will exert an impact on the future development of this Organisation. Therefore, with the guidance of the relevant documents of the Conference at its Sixteenth Session and the Third Review Conference, and drawing on the experience of the numerous training courses and seminars held by the Secretariat so far, all the parties should take heed of the opinions and requirements of the developing nations seriously, and chart out a clear course for carrying out international cooperation in an in-depth, systematic and well targeted fashion. China is prepared to participate actively in relevant discussions, and is looking forward to a consensus reached among all sides at an early date.

Fifthly, China has all along committed itself to the promotion of the universality of the Convention. China calls on States not Party to sign and ratify the Convention at an early date, and it has, by virtue of seminars, training courses and other events, engaged in contacts with Myanmar and other States not Party. China is ready to contribute to promoting Myanmar's and other States not Party's early accession to the Convention.

The Chinese delegation will be obliged if this statement be circulated as an official document of this session.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.