

**STATEMENT OF VIETNAM AT THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF OPCW**

(11-14 July 2017)

*Mr Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal,
Mr Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü,
Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,*

At the outset, we would like to welcome Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal as the new Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to bring this session of the Council to a successful conclusion. We wish to take this opportunity to thank H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon for her dedicated efforts during her chairmanship of the Council's meetings and sessions. We highly appreciate the comprehensive opening statement by Mr. Director-General.

We would also like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on behalf of NAM State Parties to the CWC and China.

Mr Chairperson,

Viet Nam persistently pursues its long-standing principled position to support general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of all weapons of mass destruction in line with the preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). For its part, Viet Nam stands ready to work harder with all concerned stakeholders towards the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the CWC and looks forward to the continued cooperation of all Member States to fulfil their obligations and commitments under the Convention.

In this regard, we take positive note of developments since the Council's last session, including but not limited to progress achieved in implementing the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining Category II chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya, strengthening cooperation between the OPCW and the Syria Arab Republic with respect to the elimination and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, as well as in carrying out capacity-building, educational and outreach activities and programmes jointly organized by the OPCW and many member states in different regions. We also commend the work done so far by the Chairpersons, the Ambassadors of Senegal and Chile, of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors respectively and the Co-Chairs of the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities, the

Ambassadors of Canada and South Africa and encourage their close cooperation with all regional groups.

With regard to the appointment of the new Director-General, we share the views echoed by many distinguished delegates that the appointment process should be fair, open and transparent in order to select the most appropriate personnel who can enjoy the broad support of member states and help the OPCW manage its work more effectively and efficiently in light of demanding tasks in the coming period.

Mr Chairperson,

We continue to underline that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstance should be condemned and those responsible for such reprehensible acts should be held accountable. In this context, we share the concerns about the most recent conclusions of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) regarding the incident in Khan Shaykhun on 4 April 2017. We support the efforts to be undertaken by the OPCW and the United Nations to investigate and bring perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks to justice. We strongly hope that under the guidance of Mr. Director-General, all related investigations will be carried out in an impartial, objective and professional manner and the Secretariat will keep the Council informed throughout this process.

Finally, we request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Council and published on the OPCW website and extranet.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.