

**STATEMENT OF VIETNAM AT THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF OPCW
(13-16 March 2018)**

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Excellencies, distinguished colleagues,

At the outset, we would like to welcome Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal back, as 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 highly appreciate the comprehensive opening statement by Mr. Director-General and commend the concerted efforts undertaken by the Secretariat in promoting the roles and functions of OPCW under the Convention.

We would 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,

My Delegation takes positive note of developments, including the significant progress made on the destruction of old chemical weapons, abandoned chemical weapons and chemical weapons stockpiles, the completed destruction of Russia's and Libya's entire declared stockpile of chemical weapons and of Iraq's chemical weapons remnants under OPCW's verification, as well as the active participation of Member States in capacity-building, educational activities and programmes organized by the OPCW across the globe. We also would like to underline the need for all the possessors and all related State Parties to strictly comply with the Convention's obligations and relevant decisions of the Organization to contribute to our collective endeavors towards a world free of chemical weapons.

However, much remains to be done ahead of us to fully eliminate the threat of chemical weapons and prevent their re-emergence. In this regard, we look forward to fruitful discussions within the framework of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors, respectively chaired by the Ambassadors of Senegal and Chile, and the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities, co-chaired by the Ambassadors of Canada and South Africa, to formulate concrete and substantive documents to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference this year. We highly appreciate the work done so far by the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference under the leadership of Ambassador I. Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja of Indonesia and further encourage all State Parties to actively participate in and contribute to discussions in this Working Group.

Mr. Chairperson,

Viet Nam persistently pursues its long-standing principle towards the achievement of general and complete disarmament, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. Given the integrity of and full compliance to the CWC, we urge the remaining States that are not Parties to the Convention to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest. We call for the strengthened cooperation between the OPCW and other international organizations and countries to effectively combat the risk of toxic chemicals falling in the hands of non-state actors, including terrorists.

It is also necessary to support and facilitate the active role of OPCW to promote international cooperation for the peaceful development of the chemical industry and help State Parties strengthen national capacities. In this connection, we highly appreciate the forthcoming visit to Viet Nam by the Director-General to attend the international conference entitled "Science for Development" to be held in Quy Nhon, Binh Dinh Province from 9 to 10 May 2018; relevant agencies of Viet Nam are working closely with the Office of the Director-General to make preparations for this important visit. At the same time, we have been effectively cooperating with the Secretariat to organize the Workshop for State Parties in Asia on Needs Assessment and Best Practices on Chemical Safety and Security Management in Ho Chi Minh City (Viet Nam), from 10-12 April 2018. We call for the support and active participation of representatives from Member States, academia, laboratories and chemical industry associations to make this Workshop a success and thereby contribute to the full implementation of Article XI of the CWC.

We continue to underline that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstance should be condemned and perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks should be brought to justice. While sharing concerns about the use of chemical weapons in Syria, we support the work done so far by the FFM and consider it necessary to establish a relevant investigative mechanism to carry out the mandate being previously entrusted to JIM, on the basis of consultations between the OPCW and related international organizations and States Parties. We also call upon Syria to continue its cooperation with the OPCW to resolve all outstanding issues. For its part, Viet Nam stands ready to work harder with all stakeholders towards the effective implementation of all provisions of the CWC.

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.