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PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR WU KEN
HEAD OF THE CHINESE DELEGATION
AT THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

Please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to welcome you back to the Chair of the Executive Council (hereinafter as “the Council”). The Chinese delegation will fully cooperate with you, and with all the other parties, in an effort to help make this session a full success.

The Chinese delegation wishes to thank the Director-General for his work report, as well as the Vice-Chairpersons for their respective reports. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the Permanent Representative of Venezuela, Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China. Now, I would like to elaborate further China's positions and views regarding the following issues.

Mr Chairperson,

The Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter as “the Fourth Review Conference”) will be of great significance to the full and effective implementation of the Convention in a new context. All the parties should carefully review and sum up their implementation experiences in the past five years, draw up plans for the OPCW's future development, promote the purposes and objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner, and facilitate the OPCW in its continued efforts to contribute to safeguarding international peace and security and fostering social and economic development.

The Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference has held four meetings now for in-depth discussions on issues concerned. China commends the Chairperson of the Working Group, the ambassador of Indonesia, for his work, and hopes that the Working Group will continue to work in line with the principle of transparency and consensus, so as to bring about positive results at an early date. In the process, States Parties should play a leading role.

Meanwhile, the Chinese delegation commends the Co-Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW, the ambassadors of Canada and South Africa, for their efforts. Their recently circulated summary serves as a foundation for States



Parties to have discussions and reach consensus within the framework of the Fourth Review Conference.

Mr Chairperson,

The complete destruction of chemical weapons of all categories, including abandoned chemical weapons, exerts a great impact on the core purposes and objectives of the Convention. China commends the complete destruction by the Russian Federation and Libya of their respective chemical weapons stockpiles, and the completion by Iraq of the destruction of its chemical weapons remnants. It must be pointed out, however, that although some progress has been made in the destruction of the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan on the territory of China, the overall destruction process has been falling far behind schedule. China urges Japan to honour its obligation under the Convention in earnest, increase its inputs of resources and speed up the pace of its work, so as to complete the destruction of Japanese ACWs as early as possible and in a safe manner, within the time frame approved by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session. As the Territorial State Party, China will as always provide appropriate cooperation. The Council, the Conference of the States Parties, and the Review Conference should continue to perform duly their reviewing and monitoring functions in this regard.

Mr Chairperson,

Since the last session of the Council, the Syrian Government and the Secretariat have conducted cooperation on such issues as the clarification of the Syrian initial declaration, the inspection of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre, and the destruction of the remaining two chemical weapons production facilities. China hopes that the Syrian Government and the Secretariat will enhance their cooperation and work continuously for further progress on relevant issues. As for the allegations of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic, on-site investigation should be carried out in an independent, impartial and objective manner, so as to get to the bottom of the incidents at an early date. All the parties in the Council should help maintain the current positive momentum in the process of a political settlement of the Syrian issue, preserve solidarity, avoid confrontation and jointly create favourable conditions for a final solution to the issue of the Syrian chemical weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

China attaches great importance to the implementation of Article X and Article XI, and engages itself actively in the promotion of international cooperation and of assistance and protection against chemical weapons. In September this year, China and the Secretariat will co-organise another training course on assistance and protection against chemical weapons. Interested States Parties are most welcome to participate.

Mr Chairperson,

The Chinese delegation took note of the statement by the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland regarding the recent incident in the United Kingdom involving the use of a nerve agent. We also noted the response of the delegation of the Russian Federation. We hope that the relevant parties could properly resolve this issue based on facts and through appropriate channels.

The Chinese delegation requests the circulation of this statement as an official document of this session and its uploading onto the official and internal website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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