

**STATEMENT OF VIETNAM AT THE 55TH MEETING OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF OPCW**

(5 July 2017)

Mr Chairman, 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 of Bangladesh as Chairman of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership and wish you great success in fulfilling this responsibility. We also like to express our high appreciation to the former Chairperson, Ambassador Melono of Cameroon, for her outstanding work in the past time.

Regarding our discussions today, we would like to reaffirm Vietnam's position to support the implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and call for the continued cooperation of all concerned Member States to carry out their obligations and commitments under the Convention. It is also our consistent policy to condemn the use of chemical weapons, though by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. In this context, we share the concerns echoed by many other delegations about the most recent conclusions of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) regarding the incident in Khan Shaykhun on 4 April 2017.

We therefore 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 all related investigations will be carried out in an impartial, objective and professional manner.

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

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.