

**STATEMENT OF VIETNAM AT THE FIFTY-SIXTH MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF OPCW**

(9 November 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 back, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to bring this fifty-sixth meeting of the Council to a successful conclusion.

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 (WMDs) in line with the preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Over the past years, through the CWC and other disarmament mechanisms and initiatives, we have been proactively joining common efforts of the international community towards the total elimination of chemical weapons as well as other WMDs. We condemn the use of chemical weapons and oppose to all actions causing harms to innocent civilians and reaffirm that those responsible for such reprehensible acts should be held accountable. We continue to underline that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, by anyone and under any circumstance is not only a clear violation of international law but also goes against all moral and ethical principles of our humanity.

In this connection, while taking note of the Seventh report of the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) which has been recently issued, we support the efforts being and to be undertaken by the OPCW and the United Nations to carry out investigations in an impartial, objective and professional manner and bring perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks to justice. At the same time, we call for further international support and assistance to the continued cooperation between the Syria Arab Republic and the OPCW to resolve remaining issues with respect to the elimination and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, in accordance with the CWC and relevant Executive Council's decisions.

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.

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.