



**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CWC**

**STATEMENT BY
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE
PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS
ON BEHALF OF THE STATES PARTIES
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION, AND CHINA**

THE HAGUE, 5 DECEMBER 2006

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement who are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, I congratulate you on your election as Chairman of this 11th Conference of States Parties. We are confident that under your experienced and skilful leadership, the Conference will be steered to a successful conclusion.

2. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador José Antonio Arróspide for his excellent chairmanship of the Tenth Conference of States Parties. His able guidance and leadership abilities contributed to the success of the Conference. I wish to also congratulate the newly elected Bureau members of this 11th Session of the Conference.

3. I wish to express our gratitude to the Director General, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter for the presentation of his clear and comprehensive report which shall greatly facilitate the deliberations of this Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international peace and security. The NAM CWC States

Parties and China are committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention and call for the prohibition and total elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction in line with the first preambular paragraph of the Convention.

5. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to reaffirm and reiterate the long-standing principled positions of the Movement on disarmament and international security, including the decisions taken at the XIV Summit of the Movement, which took place last September, in Havana, Cuba.

6. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express our deepest concern about the current pace of the destruction process. We reaffirm that all of the provisions of the Convention must be upheld to the letter. This equally applies to the deadline set for the destruction of chemical weapons. In this spirit the NAM CWC States Parties and China call on all possessor States to make every effort to comply with the deadlines stipulated under the Convention for the destruction of chemical weapons. We strongly support the view that it is imperative for major possessor states to fully commit to the preservation of the integrity and credibility of the CWC and to strictly comply with the 2012 final deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their call to developed countries to promote international cooperation

through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and the removal of all and any discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. A decade of operation of the CWC has demonstrated that developing countries who are States Parties to the convention have implemented their obligations in good faith. In this regard, NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly believe that undue restrictions amongst States Parties on exchange of technology, materials and equipment for peaceful purposes are against both the letter and spirit of the Convention and affect its long term viability. It is fundamental to ensure the removal of and to prevent the imposition of any discriminatory restriction on access to materials, equipment and technology required by developing States Parties to the Convention for their continued and peaceful development. NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly emphasizes that it is now time to fulfil the solemn undertakings given at the time of the Convention's adoption for removal of unwarranted restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes.

8. NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasize once again that the objectives of the Convention can be best addressed through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non- discriminatory agreements by all CWC States Parties.

9. We reiterate our conviction that facilitation of and participation in the fullest possible exchanges and enhanced

international cooperation in the field of peaceful chemical activities, aimed at facilitating economic and social development, is a vital element in strengthening implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We recall that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the provisions of international cooperation contribute to the universality of the Convention. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention and to the fostering of international cooperation for peaceful purposes in the field of chemical activities. However, we note with concern that there has been little follow-up on the decision adopted on Article XI at the 10th CSP and that it will not be examined in depth at the 11th Conference. We wish to reiterate that the Conference should mandate the Executive Council to approve and Action Plan for the effective implementation of Article XI by the next Session of the Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Since the Tenth Session of the Conference more countries have joined the Chemical Weapons Convention. It is truly a pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the Central African Republic, Comoros, Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia and Montenegro. The Organisation has now 181 States Parties, a figure that sets it closer to the goal of universal adherence to the Convention.

11. The CWC is one of the very few disarmament multilateral treaties banning a whole category of weapons of mass destruction. Consequently, we believe that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security would be enhanced through universal adherence to the Convention. The NAM CWC States Members and China wish to express our appreciation to the States Parties which have contributed to universality-related activities. We likewise commend the Technical Secretariat for continuously intensifying its efforts to promote the universality of the Convention, which is fundamental for the attainment of its purposes. The NAM CWC States Members and China recognise the importance of enhancing the results of the Action Plan that have been achieved and strongly encourage States Parties to continue their efforts in pursuit of its goals. We urge all States that have still not joined the Convention to do so without further delay, in particular those States whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concerns.

12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China feel that the contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts in the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention can be best achieved by striving for full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention. In this regard, the promotion of the universality of the convention is of particular importance.

13. This 11th Session will be undertaking a review of the Plan of Action on the implementation of Article VII. The progress

achieved since the adoption of the Plan of Action and the follow-up of Decision 16 of CSP/10 bears testimony to its success. We are convinced that through the provision of meaningful assistance and technical support to States Parties, at their request, the objectives of Dec. 16 can be more effectively realised.

14. We continue to support a constructive and cooperative approach and encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to devise appropriate solutions to overcome the difficulties encountered by individual States Parties in the implementation of the Plan of Action.

Mr. Chairman,

15. The Draft Budget of the Organisation for 2007 is one of the main agenda items and - consequently- the States Parties have dedicated considerable time and efforts to the deliberations on this topic since June 2006. The NAM CWC States Parties and China look forward to the successful conclusion of discussions on this issue.

16. We reiterate that in the interest of the effective operation of the OPCW, proper allocations in the regular budget for key programmes and activities remain essential. The international cooperation programmes are a core element in the implementation of the Convention. Enhanced ICA programmes and activities and the corresponding provision of sufficient

resources in the regular budget are therefore of fundamental importance, particularly in the domain of capacity building.

17. The verification measures of the Convention play an important role for the credibility of the implementation of all provisions of the Convention. The NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasize that the principle that establishes that facilities posing most risk to the object and purpose of the Convention retain the central attention of the verification measures, must be consistently upheld. Therefore, we underscore anew that the verification regime under Article VI should correspond to the hierarchy of risks inherent to the respective category of chemicals.

18. While recognising the financial difficulties faced by States Parties that are in arrears, we welcome the draft decision aimed at encouraging those States Parties to regularise the payment of their outstanding contributions.

19. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the importance of Article X of the Convention, and of the activities of the OPCW to maintain and develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance to Member States in situations of use or threat of use of Chemical Weapons against them. We urge all States Parties to fully implement their obligations under Article X including the enhancement of the voluntary fund for assistance.

20. We reiterate our support to the efforts of the African Group for the establishment of an OPCW Office in Africa and recognize the endeavors of the facilitator and of the Technical Secretariat in this regard. The NAM CWC States Parties and China urge the Working Group established pursuant to the recommendation of the 10th CSP to conclude its deliberations with a positive and constructive recommendation by the 12th Conference of States Parties.

21. The NAM CWC States Parties and China support the recommendation to establish a Committee on relations with the Host Country. We welcome and support the decision that has been drafted for this XI CSP. Under this perspective, we look forward to the early solution of the outstanding issues pertaining to the implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

22. The NAM CWC States Parties and China support the Draft Decision on tenure policy for the consideration of this Session of the Conference of States Parties.

23. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are aware of the fact that the extension of the exceptional authority requested by the Director General is aimed primarily at avoiding any adverse operational impact on the activities of the Technical Secretariat. We expect that the tenure policy be fully implemented by the DG by 29th April 2012. We further emphasize that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat must continue to be fair and transparent, paying due regard to the importance of

recruiting staff on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution.

24. we recognize the work that has been done so far in the preparations for the 2nd Review Conference and express our determination to participate constructively in this process.

25. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their commitment to actively participate in the preparations towards the Tenth Anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. This will be an important occasion to reiterate our determination to build a world free of Chemical Weapons. It will also serve to promote greater awareness of and wider knowledge about the CWC and the OPCW” .

Finally, Mr. Chairman,

26. It is the clear wish of the NAM CWC States Parties and China to renew the assurances of our fullest cooperation to you and to all other Member States in ensuring the success of this Conference.

Thank you.