



**OPCW**

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**REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ZELMYS MARIA DOMINGUEZ CORTINA  
ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA  
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

1. On behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (NAM CWC States Parties), and China, I would like to welcome you back to the Chair of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this session to a successful conclusion.
2. The NAM CWC States Parties and China, committed to the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, wish to outline their position on the agenda of the Council.
3. The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. Consequently, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their long-standing principled position toward the achievement of general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in line with the first preambular paragraph of the Convention.
4. We stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons is one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention. In this regard, completion of destruction of all chemical weapons, including abandoned chemical weapons, within the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012, as set forth in the Convention, constitutes an integral part of the obligations by the chemical weapons possessor States and by abandoning States Parties.
5. Since more than 34.00% of chemical weapons stockpiles are yet to be destroyed and the destruction of a significant number of abandoned chemical weapons is yet to start, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their serious concern about the pace of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, as well as the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons, in light of the fast-approaching final extended deadline of 29 April 2012. We therefore reaffirm that verification of the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles shall continue to be the top priority of the Technical Secretariat.



6. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China are actively involved in the informal consultations conducted by the Chairperson of the Executive Council on how and when to initiate discussions on issues related to meeting the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the view that formal discussions on this issue within the framework of the deliberations related to the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles should commence at the Sixty-Fifth Session of the Executive Council, allowing for adequate preparations to be undertaken for this purpose. We consider it important to emphasise that the outcome of these consultations will uphold and not undermine the integrity and credibility of the Convention.
7. A further source of grave concern is that, according to the available reports, the United States of America and the Russian Federation may not be in a position to meet the final extended deadline for the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, which endangers the credibility and the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We, therefore, urge all possessor States Parties to take every necessary measure to ensure compliance with the final extended deadline for the destruction of all their chemical weapons stockpiles.
8. We are of the firm belief that this session of the Council, in line with the decision taken at its Eleventh Session, and as underlined by the Second Review Conference, shall once again emphasise the obligations of possessor States Parties to complete the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles within the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012.
9. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the significance of the information that the Director-General submits to each regular session of the Executive Council, in consultation with the relevant possessor States Parties, on the progress achieved through the measures that have been undertaken to accelerate the destruction of the remaining stockpiles and abandoned weapons. This will allow States Parties to better monitor and assess the situation in order to make appropriate suggestions in this regard.
10. While welcoming the initial steps towards starting operations to destroy chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China, the NAM CWC States Parties and China note with concern that a large quantity of abandoned chemical weapons remain to be destroyed, and call upon the relevant abandoning State Party to make the fullest possible effort to complete destruction by the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012.
11. The NAM CWC States Parties and China firmly believe that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full adherence to universality of the Convention.
12. We commend the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties for their efforts to promote the universality of the Convention, which is fundamental to the realisation of its object and purpose. We urge all States that have still not joined the Convention to do so without further delay, particularly those whose non-adherence to the Convention has given rise to serious concern. In this regard, we request the Technical

Secretariat and States Parties in a position to do so, to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date.

13. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall the importance of the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, underlined by the Second Review Conference, and emphasise that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention. States Parties are obliged to implement the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, as well as international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
14. We strongly believe that it is imperative to ensure the removal of and to avoid the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. In this context, we call upon the developed countries to fulfil their commitment to transfer technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and to remove any discriminatory restrictions which affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among States Parties. We emphasise that the objectives of the Convention can be best achieved through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive, and non-discriminatory agreements by all States Parties.
15. Guided by the experience gained by the Organisation in the implementation of other provisions of the Convention through action plans, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm their full support for the ongoing informal consultations on the full implementation of Article XI. We welcome the final report of the workshop on Article XI held in November 2010 and look forward to continuing substantive discussions on its recommendations in order to expeditiously devise an action plan to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
16. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that the implementation of Article X of the Convention on assistance and protection against chemical weapons makes a significant contribution to countering the threats of the use of chemical weapons. We stress the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely, adequate, and effective assistance and protection to its States Parties in situations of use or threat of use of chemical weapons against them. In this regard we look forward to the incorporation of the lessons learned from ASSISTEX 3 into the OPCW's programmes for assistance and protection.
17. While paying due respect to all chemical weapons victims and their families, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their firm conviction that international support for providing special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need requiring the OPCW's close attention. At its Fifteenth Session, the Conference noted the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran for the establishment of an international support network for the victims of chemical weapons and requested the Council to report back at its Sixteenth Session along with any appropriate recommendations. While welcoming that two rounds of informal consultations have taken place in this regard, we look forward to the timely finalisation of this proposal and reaching a conclusion.

18. The NAM CWC States Parties and China acknowledge the contribution of the OPCW, whose primary objective is the total destruction of chemical weapons, to global anti-terrorism efforts through full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, although the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism Organisation. In this regard, the Second Review Conference reaffirmed the independent and autonomous nature of the OPCW. We continue to hold the view that the obligation to implement the Convention has its origin in the Convention itself and not in any extraneous resolution or law, and believe that it is important that this principle should be reinforced when addressing any related issue. The NAM CWC States Parties and China highlight the significance of international cooperation in the context of the Convention, in preventing terrorists from acquiring and/or using chemical weapons.
19. The verification regime of the OPCW is an important element in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are committed to participating in ongoing consultations regarding the unresolved issues related to industry verification.
20. In this regard, we stress that the number and frequency of Article VI inspections should be determined based on the hierarchy of risk posed by scheduled chemicals and OCPFs as stipulated in the Convention.
21. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the ongoing consultations on the number of Article VI inspections facilitated by Ambassador of Peru, H.E. Mr Allan Wagner.
22. We stress the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Second Review Conference (RC-2/4) with regard to declaration and inspection of OCPF sites. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate the desirability of directing inspections towards facilities of greater relevance to the object and purpose of the Convention, and that any proposals to be considered regarding this subject shall exclude the possibility of additional declaration obligations and shall correspond strictly with Part IX of the Verification Annex of the Convention, which is based on the concept of hierarchy of risk.
23. Furthermore, as it was reiterated in the report of the Second Review Conference (paragraph 9.66), any changes in the frequency of OCPF inspections, if required, shall take into account any refinements to the OCPF inspection regime or improvements in site-selection methodology, and should be based on a thorough discussion and a decision of the policy-making organs.
24. In this context, we recall that the modified methodology for the selection of OCPF inspections is an interim measure. The site-selection methodology should be in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and needs to be adopted by consensus. In this regard, we remain committed to actively and constructively participate in the facilitation conducted by Ambassador of Malaysia H.E. Mrs Fauziah Mohamad Taib and Ambassador of the Netherlands H.E. Mr Pieter de Savornin Lohman to resolve this important issue as soon as possible.

25. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reemphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat is to be fair and transparent and stress that in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44 of the Convention, the paramount consideration in the employment of the Staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. In this context it is important that the Technical Secretariat observe an equitable geographical representation, particularly at the professional level.
26. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are actively participating in the ongoing facilitations on tenure policy being conducted by Mrs Gonker Roscher of Germany. We would like to stress the need to act in a manner consistent with the Convention and previous decisions and staff rules and regulations of the OPCW. While ensuring equitable geographical distribution and without favouring any particular region, the tenure policy should be implemented in a way that the Organisation can continue to effectively meet its core objectives.
27. In the context of the implementation of Article VII, we encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to States Parties, at their request, and to come up with appropriate solutions to overcome the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by individual States Parties in carrying out their national implementation measures.
28. The NAM CWC States Parties and China have noted the development related to the advisory panel of independent experts, established by the Director-General, on the question of the future of the OPCW under the Convention. The outcome of the panel's work could be a useful contribution to the ongoing discussions by the States Parties on the future development of the Organisation, keeping in mind the full implementation of Article I of the Convention. In this regard, we stress that the Organisation should continue to accord top priority to the complete destruction of all chemical weapons in accordance with the Convention.
29. The NAM CWC States Parties and China have actively participated in the deliberations on outstanding issues on the agenda of the Council being facilitated by the Vice-Chairpersons from Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, South Africa, and Russia and commend their efforts.
30. Before concluding, Mr Chairperson, I would like to express our appreciation to you and the distinguished members of the Bureau for skilfully guiding the work of the Council over the last year. We also take this opportunity to welcome the incoming Chairperson and members of the Bureau and pledge to them our full support and cooperation. I would also like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Sixty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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