



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-SEVENTH 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 as Chair of the Executive Council and express my 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 express their views regarding the items included in the agenda of the Council.
3. The existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to international peace and security. Consequently, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their long-standing principled position towards the 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 old and 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 a number of chemical weapons stockpiles are yet to be destroyed and the destruction of a large number of old and abandoned chemical weapons is yet to start, the NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to reiterate their concern at the probability that the destruction deadline of 29 April 2012 will not be met, as this endangers the credibility and the integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In line with the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on this matter, we call upon States Parties concerned to comply with its provisions, inter alia providing concrete information on their destruction plans and we further request the Director-General to report whether the final extended deadline for



- destruction of chemical weapons has been met. We reaffirm that verification of the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles as well as old and abandoned chemical weapons shall continue to be the top priority of the Organisation.
6. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall that the Forty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council extended to 29 April 2012 in accordance with the Convention the deadline for the destruction of all the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China. Noting with concern that this deadline will not be fully met, we urge Japan to do its utmost to achieve complete destruction of the Japanese ACWs in the shortest time and call for a timely decision by the policy-making organs of the Organisation to address the issue.
 7. 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. 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 which are in a position to do so, to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date.
 8. 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.
 9. 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, such as unilateral sanctions against other States Parties, 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.
 10. While highlighting the importance of international cooperation and assistance and the obligations of the States Parties in this regard, we are of the view that the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW plays an important role in the effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention. In this context, strengthening the Technical Secretariat through provisions of required financial and human resources, especially for the work of ICA in the field of international cooperation for peaceful purposes, would be essential in achieving objectives of the Convention. We call upon all States Parties to constructively support the activities and programmes undertaken by the ICA.

11. 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 call for the development of such a plan that will ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. We welcome the efforts of the facilitator, Mr Chen Kai from China, in this matter and the decision taken in this regard by the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, about components of the full implementation on Article XI. We are of the view that such a decision shall constitute a step towards the full implementation of this article. We look forward to continue identifying components that enable the implementation of all the recommendations of the final report of the workshop on Article XI held in November 2010.
12. 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.
13. 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. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the decision adopted by the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties in this regard and in particular call upon the Technical Secretariat to move expeditiously to establish the Network and encourage the States Parties to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the Network.
14. The verification regime of the OPCW is an important element in the implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention. 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 chemical facilities and OCPFs.
15. 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.
16. On the issue of the number, duration, timing and mode of inspections for Schedule 1 facilities, the NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the need that the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties should take a decision on guidelines on this important issue, and request the Technical Secretariat to provide all necessary assistance in this regard.
17. While recalling that the OPCW is a non-career organisation, the NAM CWC States Parties and China would like to welcome the decision on tenure policy adopted at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference. We 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.

18. In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the NAM CWC States Parties and China 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 and tailored solutions to overcome the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by individual States Parties in carrying out their national implementation measures.
19. 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 bearing in mind that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism Organisation. 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.
20. NAM CWC States Parties and China have received the report that has been issued by an external consultant on the structure of the Technical Secretariat and the function of its posts. The NAM CWC States Parties and China have deep reservations regarding the proposals made by the external consultant. We believe that the structure of the Organisation must continue to match the primary objectives of the Convention.
21. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to issues related to the future development of the OPCW, and in this regard we stress that any decision to be taken on this matter should be decided upon by the policy-making organs of the Organisation. We further stress that destruction of all chemical weapons, including old and abandoned chemical weapons, should continue to be accorded the top priority until their complete elimination. In our view, there is a need to find an appropriate and agreed upon forum to be decided by the States Parties through the policy-making organs to facilitate consideration of the issues in a thorough, transparent and holistic manner with the view to reaching consensus.
22. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the importance of the upcoming Third Review Conference in 2013 and the necessity to work and circulate the draft document in advance so as to be properly considered and negotiated by States Parties.
23. I would like to request that the English version of the statement, which is the authentic version, be issued as an official document of the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.