



**OPCW**

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**REPUBLIC OF CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY MAURICIO MARTINEZ DUQUE  
CHARGÉ D'AFFAIRES A.I. FROM CUBA  
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-NINTH SESION 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, Ambassador Bhaswati Mukherjee of India, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express my confidence in your able leadership to steer this session to a successful conclusion. We also wish to take the opportunity to welcome the new Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council.
2. 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 including the prohibition and elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction under strict and effective international verification.
3. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons, and abandoned chemical weapons represents a fundamental pillar of the Convention. Based on the Director-General's reports at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council as well as the destruction plans submitted by the concerned States Parties, we remain seriously concerned that those States Parties have not complied with this obligation of the Convention, thus endangering its credibility and integrity. We therefore strongly call upon those concerned States Parties to strictly comply with this fundamental pillar and the relevant decisions approved by the policy-making organs (PMOs) on all categories of chemical weapons, with a view to achieving their complete destruction in the shortest time possible, under verification by OPCW. We also reaffirm that the destruction and verification of all categories of chemical weapons shall continue to be the top priorities of the Organisation.
4. The NAM CWC States Parties and China firmly believe that the contribution of the Convention to the promotion of 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 commitment to promote the universality of the Convention and encourage them to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date. We call on States Parties to fully implement the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on universality which emphasises that States that remain outside the Convention would not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to States Parties. We strongly call upon all States that have so far not joined the Convention to do so without further delay including those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern.

5. Taking into account the need of the proper balance of the pillars of the Convention, 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 other States Parties, as well as international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
6. 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.
7. 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 International Cooperation and Assistance (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.
8. 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 are of the view that the decision taken by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session on components of the full implementation on Article XI constitutes an important step towards the full implementation of this article. We call upon the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to accelerate the implementation of that decision. We also look forward to identifying other components that shall enable the implementation of all the

provisions of Article XI. We welcome the continuation of the facilitation on this topic and the appointment of Mr Aamir Shouket from Pakistan as facilitator.

9. 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.
10. 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. In light of the decision adopted by the Conference at its Sixteenth Session on this matter and in particular, we reiterate our 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.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. We attach great importance to issues related to the future development of the Organisation, and in this regard we stress that any decision on this matter, should be decided upon by the PMOs of the Organisation. In our view, States Parties, through the PMOs, need to find an appropriate and agreed-upon forum to facilitate consideration of the issues in a thorough, transparent and holistic manner aimed at reaching consensus. We further stress that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should continue to be accorded the top priority until their complete destruction.
14. On the issues related to the Host Country Committee, the NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the concerns expressed by several delegations at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council deliberations and look forward to

receive the outcomes of consultations of the Host Country Committee on this issue with the view to address those concerns.

15. We welcome the establishment of the Open-Ended Working Group on the Third Review Conference in 2013 and congratulate its Chairperson HE Nassima Baghli from Algeria, as well as the Vice-Chairpersons. We look forward to fruitful deliberations on the issues that have been identified and any other issues that may be identified by delegations in future.
16. Since this is the last statement delivered by Cuba on behalf of NAM CWC States Parties and China, I would like to thank all the delegations in this Group for their support and cooperation. I also would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Islamic Republic of Iran as the new Chair of NAM from September 2012 and I wish Iran a successful chairmanship.
17. 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-Ninth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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