



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY H. E. KAZEM GHARIB ABADI  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF IRAN ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES  
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA  
AT THE SEVENTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam 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, 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.
2. Since this is the first statement delivered by the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China, I would like to appreciate Ambassador of Cuba H. E. Zelmys Dominguez for her dedication and fully fledged efforts to coordinate the Non-Aligned Movement in the OPCW.
3. The NAM CWC States Parties and China associate themselves with the Final Document and Tehran Declaration of the 16th Summit of Heads of States or Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement held on 26 to 31 August 2012 in Tehran, in which they reaffirm their principled positions on various important issues in relation with the Convention, which stand as follows:
  - Expressing their serious concerns that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons has not been met by certain possessors States Parties and urging them to take every necessary measure with a view to ensuring their compliance with the Convention;
  - Full implementation of the Convention to contribute to international and regional peace and security;
  - Importance of universality of the Convention and accession of all States not parties to the Convention;



- Encouraging all States Parties to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention;
  - Promotion of international cooperation and removal of any discriminatory restrictions in this field that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention;
  - Stressing the importance of the implementation of Article X of the Convention and welcoming establishment of the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons;
4. 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 general and complete disarmament including the prohibition and elimination of all categories of weapons of mass destruction under strict and effective international verification regime.
  5. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, is 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 the 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.
  6. Recognising the contribution of universality of the Convention to the promotion of international and regional peace and security, the NAM CWC States Parties and China call on States Parties to fully implement the decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.16, dated 2 December 2011) 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 the States Parties.
  7. The NAM CWC States Parties and China call for the full and expeditious implementation of decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) on Article XI. We strongly encourage the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to redouble their efforts in this regard and we reiterate our position on the main aspects of the provisions of this Article as follows:
    - Taking into account the need of the proper balance of the pillars of the Convention;
    - Emphasising full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, through developing an action plan,

- Recalling the obligation of the States Parties to implement the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of other States Parties;
  - The necessity of removal of and avoiding the imposition of any restrictions, in particular unilateral sanctions against other States Parties on transferring and exchanging information, technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field, that are contrary to the Convention;
  - Strengthening the Technical Secretariat through provision of required financial and human resources, especially for the work of International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA),
8. While paying due respect to all chemical weapons victims and their families, the NAM CWC States Parties and China in light of the decision adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.13, dated 2 December 2011) reiterate their call upon the Technical Secretariat to move expeditiously to establish the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage the States Parties to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the Network.
  9. 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.
  10. 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 policy-making organs (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. In this context, we further stress that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should continue to be accorded the top priority until their complete destruction.
  11. 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 during the Sixty-Ninth Session of Executive Council deliberations and look forward to receiving the outcomes of consultations of the Host Country Committee on this issue with the view to address those concerns.
  12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China actively participated in the ongoing consultations on the Draft 2013 Programme and Budget. In this context, we are of the view that while considering saving policy, provision of required financial and human resources for implementation of Article XI and the work of ICA would be essential in achieving objectives of the Convention. We also firmly believe that any plan related to the structure of the Organisation is a matter of policy and should be thoroughly discussed by the PMOs rather than budget consultation meetings.

13. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the continued implementation of Programme for Africa by the Technical Secretariat and support developing of new actions and projects in order to strengthen the Programme.
14. Regarding consultations on improvement of the Council's method of work, we believe that deliberations should continue on this important issue through constructive contribution and consensus of all States Parties. . In this context, we are of the view that any change in the numbers of the sessions of the Executive Council may apply for the future terms.
15. On the Open-Ended Working Group on the Third Review Conference in 2013, while commending the work of the Bureau of the OEWG, Technical Secretariat and contribution of all States Parties, we look forward to fruitful deliberations on the issues that have been identified and any other issues that may be identified by delegations.
16. I would like to request that this statement and its annex (which is on relevant paragraphs of NAM's 16th Summit Final Document to the CWC issues) to be issued as official documents of the Seventieth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

Annex: Relevant Paragraphs of Final Document of the 16th Summit of Heads of State or Government of the Non-Aligned Movement to the CWC (NAM 2012/Doc.1/Rev.2)

**Annex****RELEVANT PARAGRAPHS OF FINAL DOCUMENT  
OF THE 16TH SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OR GOVERNMENT  
OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT TO THE CWC  
(NAM 2012/DOC.1/REV.2)**

NAM 2012/Doc.1/Rev.2

[31 August 2012]

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**16th Summit of Heads of State or Government  
of the Non-Aligned Movement  
Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran  
26 - 31 August 2012**

[Relevant Paragraphs of Final Document to the CWC]

201. The Heads of State or Government of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) invited all States that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible with a view to its universality. They reaffirmed that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context also encouraged all States Parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Heads of State or Government reaffirmed the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention. They reiterated their call on the developed countries to promote international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties 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. They recalled that the full, balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention in particular economic and technical development through international cooperation, is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose. The Heads of State or Government expressed their serious concern on the indications by certain possessor states parties that they will not meet their obligations regarding the deadlines for the total elimination of chemical weapons and that 36.28% of chemical weapons still remained to be destroyed as of 31st January 2012. While taking note of the decision on the Final Extended Deadline of 29 April, 2012 that was adopted by the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties, they urged all possessor State Parties to take every necessary measure with a view to ensuring their compliance with the final extended destruction deadline in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

202. The Heads of State or Government of the States Parties to the CWC reaffirmed that the implementation of the Article X of the CWC on assistance and protection against chemical weapons make a significant contribution to countering the threats of use of chemical weapons. They stressed the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness

of the OPCW to provide timely and needed assistance and protection against use or threat of use of chemical weapons, including assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

203. The Heads of State or Government of the States Parties to the CWC welcomed the decision on Components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI adopted at the 16th Conference of the States Parties of the CWC and considered it as a positive step towards achieving the goal of the full, effective and nondiscriminatory implementation of Article XI.

204. The Heads of State or Government of the States Parties to the CWC, while paying due respect to the chemical weapons victims and their families, declare their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need and that the States Parties to the Convention as well as the OPCW should pay urgent attention to meeting these needs. In this context, they welcomed the decision adopted at the 16th Session of the Conference of States Parties to establish an International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and a voluntary Trust Fund for this purpose.

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