



OPCW

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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 SEVENTY-FIRST 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 (hereinafter 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. 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 this Session of the Executive 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. 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.



5. 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 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, particularly those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern. In this context, the NAM CWC States Parties and China express their profound disappointment that the 2012 conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of the Weapons of Mass Destruction was not convened.
6. While calling 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, the NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly encourage the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to redouble their efforts in this regard. We also reiterate our position on the need of the proper balance of the pillars of the Convention; the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI through developing and executing an action plan; the implementation of the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of other States Parties; removal of and avoiding the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the Convention, in particular unilateral sanctions against other States Parties on transferring and exchanging information, technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field; and strengthening the Technical Secretariat through provisions of required financial and human resources, especially for the work of International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA). Furthermore, we insist that any concept or approach related to the implementation of other provisions of the Convention shall not undermine the provisions of Article XI.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stressed that national legislations should be in line with the provisions of the Convention and as comprehensive as possible to

monitor the chemical activities in a way that provisions of the Convention are implemented and the obligations of the Member States are met.

10. While the NAM CWC States Parties and China acknowledge the contribution of the OPCW 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, we reaffirm that its primary objective is the total destruction of chemical weapons. In this context we commend the work of H.E. Prof. Ruthie C. Rono, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya to the OPCW, the Chairperson of the OEWG on Terrorism. We also look forward to sustained efforts and contribution towards global anti-terrorism by the OPCW. We would like to take this opportunity to bid her farewell and wish her all the best in her future endeavours.
11. While stressing the importance of the upcoming Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention to be held in April 2013 and ongoing negotiations process, the NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the work of the Bureau of the OEWG, in particular the Chair of the OEWG, H. E. Nassima Bagli, Ambassador of Algeria, for providing the “Draft Report: Review of the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention” and the draft of “The Way Ahead”, the Technical Secretariat and contribution of all States Parties. We are of the view that consensus and facilitating the work of the Third Review Conference is of high importance in the second phase of negotiations of the OEWG. We also stress that proposals should be in line with the provisions of the Convention and requirements of the OPCW bearing in mind the balanced and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention.
12. 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 (PMO) 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 the top priority of the Organisation until their complete destruction.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-First Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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