



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-SECOND 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. Since it is the last session of the Executive Council under your chairmanship, we wish to take the opportunity to express our gratitude to you for all your efforts that together with your skills and experiences have helped resolve important issues.
2. We would also like to express our deep appreciation to the Chair of the Third Review Conference, Ambassador Krzysztof Patulej; the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq, for his honest efforts in steering successfully the meetings of the Committee; and Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria, who chaired the Open-Ended Working Group, for her dedicated efforts for preparation of the draft document of the Conference. We also appreciate the efforts of the Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü and the Technical Secretariat staff for their excellent work, support and assistance for the success of the Conference.
3. The NAM CWC States Parties and China, committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, wish to outline their position on the agenda of this session of the Executive Council.
4. Given the general debate of this session of the Council which is based on the theme of "follow-up to the Third Review Conference", as an experiment and without prejudging the right of delegations to focus on individual issues, the NAM CWC States Parties and China would like to express their views in this regard as follows:

While expressing our serious concern that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons has not been met by certain possessor States Parties, we stress that the destruction of chemical weapons is the fundamental and top priority



of the Organisation and urge all possessor States Parties to take every necessary measure with a view to ensuring their compliance with the Convention. We also note the Director-General's confirmation that the necessary measures are being undertaken by the possessor States concerned to meet the planned completion dates for their destruction activities;

Stress the determination expressed in the Third Review Conference final report that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons shall be completed in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification, and with the full application of the relevant decisions that have been taken;

Acknowledge that the implementation of the Convention will contribute to international and regional peace and security;

Recognise that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the articles of the Convention is essential for realisation of the objectives and purposes of the Convention;

Insist in adequate funding for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, through the regular budget and voluntary funding;

Stress the importance of universality of the Convention and accession of all States not Parties to the Convention without further delay and precondition;

Encourage 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;

Insist on promotion of international cooperation and removal of any discriminatory restrictions such as unilateral sanctions against other States Parties that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention;

Attach high importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI through developing an action plan;

Stress the importance of implementation of Article X of the Convention and while welcoming the first step by the Technical Secretariat to activate the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons, call on the Secretariat to establish the Network fully;

Reiterate that the declarations submitted by the States Parties are the only source for the verification regime under Article VI of the Convention;

Stress that the verification regime of the Convention must correspond to the hierarchy of risks of the schedules as well as OCPF's;

Attach great importance to the issues related to the future development of the Organisation, and stress that any decision on this matter should be decided upon by the policy-making organs (PMOs) of the Organisation;

While acknowledging the contribution of the OPCW to global anti-terrorism efforts through full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, emphasise that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation.

5. The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference by consensus was a great achievement for the States Parties and the Organisation.
6. We are of the view that successful adoption of the final document of the Conference was achieved by taking into account divergent views and concerns of all States Parties in a transparent, holistic and balanced approach. The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the same approach shall prevail in the follow-up to the recommendations of the Third Review Conference.

Madam Chairperson,

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

Thank you.

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