



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-THIRD 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 (hereinafter NAM CWC States Parties) and China, I would like to welcome you, Ambassador Olexander Horin of Ukraine, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express my confidence in your able leadership to steer the sessions of the Council during your chairmanship to successful conclusions. I wish to take the opportunity to assure you of our full support and cooperation.
2. The NAM CWC States Parties and China while committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention which is essential for the realisation of the objectives and purposes of the Convention, acknowledge that the implementation of the Convention will contribute to international and regional peace and security.
3. Noting with serious concern that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons was not met by certain possessor States Parties, the NAM CWC States Parties and China 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 wish to emphasise the determination expressed by the Third Review Conference that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons, namely old, abandoned and chemical weapons stockpiles 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.
4. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Convention and in this context, we welcome the accession of Somalia to the Convention on 29 May 2013 as the 189th State Party. We see this important action by Somalia as a significant step towards achieving universality of the Convention and



thereby strongly call for the accession of other States not Party to the Convention without further delay and precondition.

5. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI through developing an action plan. We put forward a proposal during the Third Review Conference in this regard and look forward to its consideration during Article XI consultations. The NAM CWC States Parties and China insist on adequate funding for the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including Article XI, through the regular budget and voluntary funding. We also strongly believe in the promotion of international cooperation and call for the removal of any discriminatory restrictions such as unilateral sanctions against other States Parties that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention and affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among States Parties. In this context, the NAM CWC States Parties and China recall that the Third Review Conference encouraged States Parties to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to other States Parties to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without undue restrictions.
6. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach importance to the timely submission of declarations and in this context, reiterate that the declarations submitted by the States Parties are the only source for the verification regime under Article VI of the Convention.
7. Taking into account that the successful conclusion of the Third Review Conference by consensus through encompassing divergent views and concerns of all States Parties in a transparent, holistic and balanced approach was a great achievement for the States Parties and the Organisation, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the same approach shall prevail in drawing up the organisation of follow-up and preceding the implementation of the recommendations of the Third Review Conference. In this context, we appreciate the Director-General for the provision of the matrix on recommendations of the Third Review Conference and look forward to discussing these issues, taking into account all views in accordance with the final report of the Third Review Conference.
8. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their appreciation to the Director-General for presenting a non-paper on the OPCW as a global knowledge repository on the implementation of the Convention. We are of the view that the main purpose of the concept is to maintain and promote the institutional memory in the Technical Secretariat rather than establishment of a new operational unit and any duplication of activities shall be prevented. We also believe that it is necessary that the main elements of such a center should be considered and approved by the policy-making organs and without any extra financial burden on the overall budget.
9. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome receiving the Draft 2014 Programme and Budget. We will actively participate in the coming consultations on the draft and look forward to open and transparent discussions and deliberations. The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to underline the importance in achieving balance among the different items of the OPCW budget. 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 also plays an important role in the effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including through provision of required financial and human resources.

10. While recalling that the OPCW is a non-career Organisation, the NAM CWC States Parties and China would like to stress that the tenure policy should be implemented in a manner consistent with the Convention, previous decisions and staff rules and regulations. The NAM CWC States Parties and China 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. It is also important that the Technical Secretariat observe an equitable geographical representation, particularly at the professional level, as well as gender balance.

Mr Chairperson,

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

Thank you.

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