



**OPCW**

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**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-FOURTH 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 back, Ambassador Olexandr 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. We also appreciate the efforts of the Director-General during the past four years to promote the role of the Organisation in the international disarmament regime and to carry out its functions under the Convention and assisting the Conference and the Executive Council in the performance of their functions.
3. 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.
4. 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.



5. 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 the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention as the 190th State Party, which is a significant step towards achieving universality of the Convention. We hereby strongly call on the other States not Party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and precondition.
6. Given the report of the United Nations Investigation Team on use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic on 21 August, we firmly underline that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. We also express our unequivocal support for continuation of investigation to examine all alleged use cases in the Syrian Arab Republic.
7. We welcome the decision taken by the Executive Council at its Thirty-Third meeting on “Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons” (EC-M-33/DEC.1 dated 27 September 2013), recognising the independent role of the OPCW in this regard and call upon all States Parties in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions for its implementation.
8. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI especially through developing an action plan. In this regard, we are looking forward to considering the proposal made by the NAM CWC States Parties and China in the Third Review Conference, as an important step for the full implementation of this article, within its facilitation process.
9. Insisting on allocation of adequate funding for the implementation of Article XI, we also strongly believe in the 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 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. We are looking forward for the consideration of these issues in ongoing facilitation with the aim to regularise their implementation.
10. 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), appreciate the States Parties who contributed to the trust fund and further reiterate our call upon the Secretariat to activate the Network fully 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 stress 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.
13. On the follow-up of the Third Review Conference recommendations, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the transparent, holistic and balanced approach shall prevail. We believe that there should be a mechanism to consider all the recommendations and put forward practical proposals to the policy-making organs for their implementation. In this context, selective approaches shall be prevented.
14. On the Draft 2014 Programme and Budget, we 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. Given the expected increase in verification activities as the result of new developments related to our Organisation, it is necessary to revise the draft and we encourage the Member States to provide voluntary contributions in this regard.
15. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that a challenge inspection is an instrument to be used as a last resort and under exceptional circumstances. We are of the view that the consultation and clarification procedure is an integral part of Article IX, which shall precede any request for a challenge inspection. Any abuse of this provision would jeopardise the trust among States Parties and would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention. The NAM CWC States Parties and China also stress the need for the Executive Council to urgently develop recommendations for the resolution of the still outstanding issues pertaining to the Convention's verification regime, including those regarding challenge inspections, and to submit draft decisions to the Conference as early as possible, as was requested by the Third Review Conference.

Mr Chairperson,

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

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