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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE OPCW 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-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Mr Chairperson,

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 congratulate and welcome you, H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Marcelo Moerzinger of Uruguay, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this session of the Council to a successful conclusion.

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 the international and regional peace and security.

Noting with serious concern that the final extended deadline (29 April 2012) 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 chemical weapons, abandoned chemical weapons 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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Convention and in this context hereby strongly call on the other States not Party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and precondition. We also emphasise that States remaining outside the Convention should not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to the States Parties.

We welcome the decisions of the Executive Council at its meetings with respect to the elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and the cooperation of the Syrian



Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the relevant Executive Council decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons. In this regard, The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the independent role of the OPCW and its verification measures in carrying out its professional functions.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome with appreciation the announcement made by the OPCW Director-General on 23 June, with regard to the complete removal of declared Syrian chemical weapons from the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic and the complete destruction of isopropanol in the Syrian territory.

Given the Summary Report of the Fact-Finding Mission which has been established by the Director-General, on allegations of the use of toxic chemicals, reportedly chlorine, in the Syrian Arab Republic, while condemning attacks against the Team, we request the Director-General to keep the Executive Council informed of any further relevant developments.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China 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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. While we continue to call for the development of an action plan, we note the developments that took place during the intersessional period whereby the delegates agreed that a document be produced which includes the elements of the action plan proposed by the NAM CWC States Parties and China to the Third Review Conference, relevant decision taken at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties' recommendations of the Third Review Conference and inputs from workshops/seminars held on Article XI.

In this context, we also underline that the following elements should be taken into consideration by the policy making organs of the Organisation:

- (a) Allocation of adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives within the Technical Secretariat;
- (b) Adopting necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding Article XI;
- (c) 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 the States Parties.

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to the 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. The NAM CWC States Parties and China also 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.

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 for implementation of these recommendations. 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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all States Parties to fully implement their obligations under Article X. We stress the need for all States Parties and in particular those in a position to do so, to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance on a regular basis, to ensure the ability of the Technical Secretariat to develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance to respond positively to the increasing demand of States Parties for assistance, particularly to the victims of chemical weapons. We encourage States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Technical Secretariat to consider using part of the fund of Article X to also assist affected civilians in cases of terrorist attacks by chemicals weapons or toxic chemicals. In this regard, 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 International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons fully and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its voluntary trust fund.

On the Draft 2015 Programme and Budget, we wish to underline the importance of achieving a balance among the different items of the OPCW budget. We will actively participate in the coming consultations on the draft and look forward to open and transparent discussions and deliberations. 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.

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 recall that according to the Convention, 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 outstanding issues pertaining to the Convention's verification regime, including those regarding challenge inspections.

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