



**STATEMENT BY
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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-Ninth SESSION OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
THE HAGUE, 7-10 July 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honor to deliver this statement on behalf of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Mr. Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Francisco Azarello,

At the outset, I would like to welcome you, 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 all necessary measures to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the convention and relevant decisions of the Policy-Making Organs.

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 possible time in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification, and with the full application of the relevant decisions have been adopted by the Policy-Making Organs.

We welcome the visit by the Chairperson and representatives of the Executive Council to Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, China in June 2015. We believe such visits facilitate the Council to obtain better understanding and assist in the process of the destruction of the ACWs.

Mr. Chairperson,

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.

Recalling the decisions of the Executive Council at its meetings with respect to the elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and welcoming the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding

the implementation of the relevant Executive Council decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the significant progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons.

We take note the work done so far by the Fact Finding Mission, and look forward to receiving its final report. We expect the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China continue to underline that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention, legal norms and standards of the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI and emphasize the need to speed up efforts in this regard.

We welcome the initiative taken by the facilitator on this issue, Ms. Abeer Khaleefah, asking States Parties to submit proposals for concrete measures to support the full implementation of the Article XI.

We are convinced that the adoption of an Action Plan for the full, effective and non- discriminatory implementation of Article XI is paramount and cannot be excluded. However, for the sake of reaching consensus, the NAM CWC States Parties and China developed a Working Paper containing a broad range of proposals for consideration by the States Parties. We look forward to constructive discussion on the proposals submitted by all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat

We also underline that the following elements should be taken into consideration by the Policy-Making Organs of the Organisation, inter alia:

- (a) Allocation of adequate financial and human resources in annual Program and Budget of the Organization for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives within the Technical Secretariat;
- (b) Adoption of necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding Article XI;
- (c) Promotion of international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field 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, we welcome the progress made so far and encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to the States Parties. We further encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue developing appropriate and tailored solutions, taking into account 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.

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 to ensure the ability of the Technical Secretariat to develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance to respond to the increasing demand of States Parties for assistance.

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 and the Director-General who contributed to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons. We welcome the activation and activities of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its Voluntary Trust Fund.

We encourage the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to consider using part of the Trust Fund to also assist affected civilians in cases of terrorist attacks by chemical weapons or toxic chemicals.

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. In this context, selective approaches shall be prevented. We recall that the Matrix was developed as a mechanism to comprehensively monitor the implementation of the Third Review Conference recommendations. The NAM CWC States Parties and China therefore request an update on the progress-made.

With regard to the future priorities of the Organization, the NAM CWC State Parties and China believe that the main focus of the organization should remain the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons. We will take an active part in the discussions to be held in this regard from a constructive position, with a strong belief that all pillars of the Convention would be treated in a balanced manner, including, the ones related to international cooperation, assistance and protection issues, amongst others.

We are of the view that the process of negotiation in this regard has to be transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory and must reflect the interests and concerns of all States parties. We stress that SPs should take the lead in this process and urge that any decision in this regard should be taken by the Policy Making Organs of the Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcomes and commends the work of the Chairperson of the Open- Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), H.E. Dr. (Mrs.) Nimota Nihinlola Akambi, OON, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and look forward to continued constructive discussions in the OEWG-T that will contribute to the global efforts towards curbing chemical related threats and especially those of chemical weapons.

Mr Chairperson,

With regard to issue of education and outreach, the NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the ongoing and planned activities on this topic and express support to the activities developed by the TS in this regard. We also take note of the DG's Note on the establishment of an Advisory Board on education and outreach and look forward to participating in the discussions on this issue.

Mr. Chairperson,

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

Thank you.