



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Fifth Session
11 – 14 July 2017

EC-85/NAT.33
11 July 2017
ENGLISH only

VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO
THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

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

Mr Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal,

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 the sessions of the Council during your chairmanship to a successful conclusion.

We also wish to take this opportunity to appreciate H.E. Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon for all her dedicated efforts during her chairmanship of the Council's meetings and sessions.

The NAM States Parties and China join the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, renew its commitment to the principles it inspires and encourage all to continue working together for a world free of chemical weapons.

We express our thanks to the Director-General, H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his informative and comprehensive report delivered in this session and appreciate his efforts and those of his team in the Technical Secretariat to promote the role of the Organisation in the international disarmament regime and to carry out its functions under the Convention.

The NAM 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.



The NAM States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and strongly urge States not Party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and preconditions. 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.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. Consequently, the NAM States Parties and China reiterate their long-standing principled position toward the achievement of general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction in line with the first paragraph of the preamble of the Convention.

The NAM 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. We also reaffirm that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons should be held accountable.

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 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, a fundamental pillar of the Convention, 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 adopted by the policy-making organs.

We welcome the visit by the Chairperson, representatives of the Executive Council and the Director-General to Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, China, from 12 to 16 June 2017. We believe such visits facilitate the Council to obtain better understanding of the abandoned chemical weapons issue. We hope that the Council will pay further attention to and assist in the process of the destruction of the abandoned chemical weapons.

We take note of the last report (EC-85/DG.9, dated 24 May 2017) made by the Director-General on the status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining Category II chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya.

Recalling the decisions of the Executive Council with respect to the elimination and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, and the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities, NAM States Parties and China welcome the substantive efforts made and progress achieved in this regard including the destruction of the remaining aircraft hangar and look forward to the continuation of a successful and effective cooperation existing between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic.

We take note of the work done so far by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and look forward to receiving its reports on its ongoing activities. We expect the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent.

The NAM States Parties and China condemn the use of the chemical weapons by terrorist groups and are deeply concerned by the threats of the use of chemical weapons by them and request the Technical Secretariat to investigate in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention all reports on the use of chemical weapons and keep the States Parties informed accordingly.

The NAM States Parties and China express their deep concern regarding the attempt to accuse States Parties of using chemical weapons on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations made by media reports or other open source, including non-governmental entities. This trend can cause a dangerous precedent in the future work of the OPCW.

The NAM States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI and emphasise the need to speed up efforts in this regard. The NAM States Parties and China encourage all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to take into consideration our position paper on the implementation of Article XI circulated on 1 December 2016, during the Twenty-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Bearing in mind the importance of the adoption of an action plan for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, the NAM States Parties and China believe that the States Parties shall provide concrete recommendations and proposals to the Fourth Review Conference. We recognise the importance of an annual evaluation workshop of the implementation of the Article XI, as an essential step towards that goal. Therefore, we encourage the promotion of the widest and active participation of States Parties in the upcoming "Review and Evaluation Workshop on the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" in order to adopt concrete proposals that should be presented in an action-oriented, comprehensive and coherent document to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference and the Twenty- Second Conference of the States Parties.

We welcome the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat to enhance the implementation of Article XI, and we believe that this requires continuous collaboration between the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties.

The NAM and China value the work done by the Technical Secretariat and facilitators in order to achieve a balanced budget among the different programmes of the OPCW and also wish to underline should be taken into consideration by the policy-making organs of the Organisation, inter alia, allocation of adequate financial and human resources in the annual Programme and Budget of the Organisation for the implementation of Article XI related programmes including concrete projects which are sensitive to the regional economic needs of States Parties.

The NAM 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, upon States Parties' request, to develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance to respond to the increasing demand of

States Parties for assistance. The assistance delivery should be fully consistent with the provisions of the Convention.

The NAM States Parties and China pay respect to victims of chemical weapons and their families, and 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 for their contribution to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage all the States Parties to actively contribute to the Trust Fund.

The NAM States Parties and China encourage the States Parties that are in a position to do so, to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to those States Parties in need, upon request as well as assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without unnecessary restrictions.

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the NAM States Parties and China encourage all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue providing meaningful assistance and technical support to the States Parties in enhancing their national capacities, upon request. The Technical Secretariat could then come up with appropriate and tailor-made solutions to overcome the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by individual States Parties in carrying out their national implementation measures.

The NAM States Parties and China re-emphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat to be fair and transparent and stress that it shall be in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention. It is also imperative to ensure that the Technical Secretariat observe an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level.

With regard to the appointment of the new Director-General, we believe that we all share the view that the appointment process should be fair, open and transparent in order to ensure broader support for the new Director-General. In this regard, we encourage all States Parties to participate actively in this important process.

The NAM States Parties and China stress on the importance of establishing clear rules of procedure for the appointment of a new Director-General, in line with other international organisations.

On the follow-up of the Third Review Conference recommendations, the NAM States Parties and China believe that the transparent, comprehensive 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 States Parties and China therefore welcome the update on the progress-made by the Technical Secretariat.

The NAM States Parties and China welcome the last Note of the Director-General, dated 17 February 2017, related to the fourth phase of the programme to strengthen cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are looking forward to

see the programme continue in an efficient and sustainable manner under the regular budget allocation.

The NAM States Parties and China commend the continuation of the work of the Chairpersons, the Ambassadors of Senegal and Chile, of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors respectively. We also take note of the diverse views on this issue and encourage further dialogue and consultation in accordance with the Convention.

The NAM States Parties and China recognise the importance of education and outreach programmes in achieving the main objectives of the Convention, in this regard we welcome the work done by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. We also welcome all regional meetings held to contribute in formulating recommendations on education and outreach.

With regard to the future priorities of the Organisation, the NAM States Parties and China believe that the discussions need to be brought within the parameters of the policy-making organs (PMOs) guided and driven by States Parties and the main focus of the Organisation should remain the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, as one of the main pillars of the Convention.

We recognise the work done so far by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW guided by the Co-Chairs, the Ambassadors of Canada and South Africa. The NAM States Parties and China encourage continued discussion to formulate a document in this regard in order to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference. We reiterate the importance of this working group and encourage its close cooperation with all regional groups.

In conclusion Mr Chairperson,

The NAM States Parties and China reaffirm the importance and necessity of upholding the principles set out in the Convention in fulfilling the mandate of the Organisation. In this regard, we call upon all States Parties to refrain from proposing any action that does not fall within the scope of the mandate of the OPCW, and does not polarise or politicise its work, in order not to create a precedent that would undermine the future work of the Organisation.

Thank you.

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