



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Ninth Session
9 – 11, 18 and 22 October 2018

EC-89/NAT.16
9 October 2018
ENGLISH only

VENEZUELA

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES 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-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam 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 CWC States Parties and China).

Madam Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Jana Reinišová of the Czech Republic,

At the outset, I would like to welcome you back as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer the sessions of the Council during your tenure to successful conclusions.

We express our gratitude to Ambassador Fernando Arias for his informative and comprehensive report. Since it is his first Executive Council session as new Director-General, we would like to express our support to him, as well as to the Technical Secretariat, in their efforts to further promote the object and purpose of the Convention.

The NAM CWC 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 or 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 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China firmly believe that the recent accession of the State of Palestine as the 193rd State Party is a significant step towards achieving universality of the Convention.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China, while committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention for the realisation of



its object and purpose, acknowledge that the implementation of the Convention contributes to international peace and security as well as economic and technological development of the States Parties including sustainable development goals.

The NAM CWC 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 this regard, we underline that the existence and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a threat. We stress that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons 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 must be held accountable.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China condemn the use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups and are deeply concerned by the threats or 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 CWC 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 any other open sources, including non-governmental entities. This trend can cause a dangerous precedent in the future work of the OPCW.

Noting with serious concern that the final extended deadline of 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 the only remaining possessor State Party to expedite all necessary measures to ensure its compliance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the policy-making organs. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the main focus of the Organisation should remain in the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, as one of the main pillars of 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, as the 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.

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, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the substantive efforts made and progress achieved in this regard. We also welcome the Director-General's recent report on the completion of the destruction of all Chemical Weapons Production Facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. We look forward to the continuation of a successful cooperation existing between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues.

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 CWC 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 strengthen and speed up efforts in the economic and technological development of the States Parties. The NAM CWC 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 and the absence of new relevant decisions in this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage the States Parties to give more consideration to the economic and technological development of all the States Parties and also encourage the Technical Secretariat to improve strategic holistic approach to international cooperation activities.

We also underline the importance of the 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, affect the Convention's long term viability and have an adverse impact on the existing level of trust among the State Parties.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the importance of annual evaluation workshops of the implementation of Article XI and we encourage the widest and active participation of States Parties in these annual workshops.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the importance and the necessity that the Fourth Review Conference reaffirms the decision adopted by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) and all elements contained in the final document of the Third Review Conference on the economic and technological development considering that are still awaiting full implementation and recommend that States Parties should commence a policy discussion in its policy-making organs.

We welcome the nomination of the new facilitator of Article XI, Mr. Junaid Sadiq of Pakistan, and look forward to continuous collaboration and cooperation among the Technical Secretariat, the States Parties, and the facilitator.

On the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2019, we welcome the new facilitator of Budget, Mr. Hassan Zerán of Chile. The NAM CWC States Parties and China underline that the policy-making organs of the OPCW should allocate adequate financial and human resources in core activities of its annual Programme and Budget, including for the implementation of International Cooperation activities, especially Article XI, and other related programmes, considering national and regional economic needs and realities.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China look forward to the outcome of the discussions among the African States Parties, the Technical Secretariat, and relevant stakeholders within the Steering Committee, on the implementation of Africa Programme. We believe that such interactions will benefit the stakeholders in achieving the objectives of this Programme, in a predictable and sustainable manner, especially under the regular budget allocation.

The NAM CWC State Parties and China recognise the importance of education and outreach programmes in achieving the main objectives of the Convention, and in this regard, we welcome the work done by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and encourage its continuation.

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. This assistance delivery should be fully consistent with the provisions of the Convention and upon States Parties' request.

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

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue providing appropriate, tailor-made assistance and technical support to States Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in carrying out their national implementation measures.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China re-emphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat 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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all States Parties, in close consultations with their regional groups, to actively continue participating and positively contributing to the transparent, balanced, and consensus-driven discussions in the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the important work, on the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We also

take note of the diverse views on this issue and encourage further dialogue and consultation in accordance with the Convention.

In conclusion Madam Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China call upon States Parties to renew their commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention and to the important work of the OPCW for the Fourth Review Conference. Furthermore, we encourage States Parties to work cooperatively and accommodatingly in order to achieve consensus and the successful conclusion of this session and to neither polarize nor politicize the work of our esteemed Organisation.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---