



**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
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BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA
TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCE
November 21 - 30
2018**

Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

1.- 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).

**Mr. Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Agustín Vásquez Gómez
of Republic of El Salvador.**

2.- At the outset, we would like to extend to you our felicitations and warm welcome as Chairperson of the Fourth Review Conference and express our full confidence in your able leadership to steer the sessions of the Conference to successful conclusion. We also wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the Chairpersons of the Twenty-Second and Twenty-Third Sessions of the Conference of the States Parties, H.E. Abdelouahab Bellouki, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco and H.E. Yun-young Lee, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for all their dedicated efforts during those Sessions.

3.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group for the Preparation of the Fourth Review Conference, H.E. I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja, Ambassador of Indonesia, for his dedicated efforts on the preparation of the Draft Provisional Text of the Fourth Review Conference.

4.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the purpose of the Fourth Review Conference is to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We firmly believe that the review process should uphold the Convention in its entirety and reiterate the commitment of all States Parties to the effective and balanced implementation of all its provisions. The review process should significantly contribute to the promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry for the benefit of humankind and in no way lead to a change in the core focus of the Convention.

5.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this regard, we welcome the fact that since the Third-Review Conference the

number of States Parties to the Convention has risen to 193 with five new States Parties namely, the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Angola and the State of Palestine. We strongly urge States not yet Party to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without further delay or preconditions and emphasize that these States should not derive any benefit therefrom.

6 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China, while committed to the full, effective and nondiscriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention for the realization 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 States Parties including sustainable development goals.

7 - 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 continue to pose a threat.

8 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China 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.

9 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China condemn the use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups. Deeply concerned about the use or threat of use by such groups, we request the Technical Secretariat to investigate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, all reports on the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by such groups and keep States Parties informed accordingly.

10 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their deep concern regarding any 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.

11 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the completion of destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles by the Republic of Iraq, Libya, Russian Federation and the Syrian Arab Republic.

12 - 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 Organization and urge the only one 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 Organization should remain on the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, as one of the main pillars of the Convention.

13 - We also wish to emphasize 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.

14 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the Council's decision at its Sixty-Seventh Session (EC-67/DEC.6) and the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 for the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan in China (EC-84/NAT.6) attached as its Annex 2 and adopted by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session. And, stress that further efforts should be made to complete destruction of abandoned chemical weapons as soon as possible and to address challenges including ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment in accordance with the Convention and the Council decision (EC-67/DEC.6) as amended by the Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session.

15 - 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.

16 - 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.

17 - 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 strengthen and speed up efforts in the economic and technological development of States Parties. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all 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.

18 - 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 field of chemistry 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, which affect the Convention's long term viability and have an adverse impact on the existing level of trust among States Parties.

19 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the 2016, 2017 and 2018 annual review and evaluation workshops of the components of an agreed framework for the implementation of Article XI, and recognize that such exercise is useful platform to advance the development of concrete measures to enhance the implementation of this Article. We call upon States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to work together to allocate necessary resources and establish a fixed time slot for such regular workshop so as to maximize the outcome of the workshops.

20 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to make fullest efforts, including the annual workshop and consultations to commence a comprehensive discussion in the Policy Making Organs (PMO) on the implementation of components of the agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI (C-16/DEC. 10, dated 1 December 2011), in order to adopt a Plan of Action for the implementation of this Article, and also to move forward in the formulation of an OPCW strategy on international cooperation. The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that this will contribute to the economic and technological development of States Parties, and promote peaceful uses of chemistry.

21 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the adoption of the Programme and Budget of the OPCW by the tradition of consensus is crucial to the healthy functioning as well as to the sustainability of the OPCW. We 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.

22 - We welcome the 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 also appreciate the facilitator of Budget, Mr. Hassan Zerán of Chile for the work done so far by him.

23 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the achievements accomplished under the fourth phase of the Africa Programme. In this regard, we support the African Group's request that the Technical Secretariat prioritizes the strengthening of relevant regional cooperation mechanisms and bodies to further coordination and synergy at the regional and sub-regional levels with the perspective to effectively enhance the ownership of all capacity building activities implemented in Africa with the OPCW support. In addition, the continuous reinforcement of cooperation with the African Union and its institutions will

play an important role in this context. Looking forward to the continuation of this effort under the fifth phase of the Africa Programme, the NAM CWC States Parties and China underline the necessity to sustain and fund this Programme under regular budget allocation.

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

25 - 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.

26 - 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 States Parties for their contribution to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage all States Parties to actively contribute to the Trust Fund.

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

28 - 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.

29 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China re-emphasize 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. We encourage States Parties to continue to discuss modalities for candidates from developing regions to enable them to access professional positions more easily in the OPCW and look forward to productive discussions on the internship and Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programmes.

30 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the important work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We take note of the diverse views on issues under consideration in these working groups and encourage further dialogue and consultation in accordance with the Convention.

31 - The NAM CWC States Parties and China call upon States Parties to renew their commitment to the object and purpose of the Convention and with the important work of the OPCW in this Conference. We reaffirm the role of the policy-making organs in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention in accordance with their mandates.

32 - Furthermore, we encourage States Parties to work cooperatively and accommodately in order to achieve the successful conclusion of this session and to neither polarize nor politicize the work of this Organization. We stress that the practice of consensus-based decision-making by the Policy Making Organs is the best modality for achieving the object and purposes of the Convention. Thus, the NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the view that the Fourth Review Conference should encourage the PMOs to return to the practice of making decisions based on this very important principle.

Thank you.