



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT ARE
STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA
DELIVERED BY**

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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
OCTOBER 8 – 11, 2019**

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), excluding Colombia and Peru who have decided to temporarily suspend their participation in the Movement.

Mr. Chairperson, Excellency Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy,

2.- 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 tenure to successful conclusions.

3.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report.

4.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to reiterate its call to all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to support our proposal for the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group, document EC-91/NAT.3 circulated on June 7, 2019. We recognise the efforts by the EC Chair as well the co-facilitators in putting forward a draft proposal. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that any mechanism to address issues identified by States Parties, including cross-cutting issues, must have a reporting structure that guarantees a balanced and equal treatment of all issues. This would ensure the non-discriminatory, non-selective and effective implementation 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 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 non-discriminatory 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 the States Parties including sustainable development goals.

7.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the proposals for technical changes to the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention and encourage the sponsors to conduct wide and open consultations, with the participation of the Technical Secretariat, in order to achieve consensual adoption by the Twenty Fourth CSP, thus strengthening the Organization within the framework of the Convention.

8.- 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 significant threat.

9.- 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.

10.- 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 the States Parties informed accordingly.

11.- 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.

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 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 PMO's. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the main focus of the Organisation 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 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 PMO's. We note that such determination also enjoyed broad consensus during the Fourth Review Conference.

14.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that further efforts should be made to complete the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons (ACW) 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 according to the destruction plan beyond the year 2016 jointly submitted by Japan and China. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director General, representatives of the Council, as well as States Parties as observers to Haerbaling ACW destruction site in Jinlin Province, People's Republic of China from 2nd to 7th September. We believe that the first-hand information acquired through such visits will contribute to the deliberations in the PMO's and expedite the destruction process of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

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 reports on the completion of the destruction of all Chemical Weapons and Chemical Weapon 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 emphasise the need to strengthen and speed up efforts in the economic and technological development of the States Parties. In this regard, 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 (RC4/NAT.72) circulated on November 26, 2018, during the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

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, 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 recognize that the annual Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Implementation of Article XI is a useful platform to advance the development of concrete measures to enhance the implementation of this Article. Therefore, it is important that the preparatory process in the Facilitation of this Article decides on a time-frame, modalities, agenda and the appropriate budgetary resources with the aim to improve the performance and effectiveness of these Annual Workshops.

20.- We believe that a comprehensive discussion in the PMO's on the implementation of the aforementioned components of the Agreed Framework is the best way to formulate an OPCW strategy for the full implementation of Article XI. We encourage the States Parties to use their best efforts within the existing mechanism, as well as in future ones, to achieve this purpose.

21.- On the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2020, we welcome the Co-facilitators, Mr. Marcin Kawalowski of Poland and Mr. Daniel Baptista of Portugal. The NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasize that the PMO's 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.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the Draft Decision on the OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters Rules of Procedure. We believe that the discussions on the Draft Decision should be conducted in an open and inclusive manner, avoiding issues which lead to politicization and polarization. Bearing in mind that the ABAF is an open-ended body without decision making powers, the NAM CWC States Parties and China hold the view that every State Party has the right to nominate expert it deems qualified and appropriate as a member of the ABAF. Broad geographic distribution and diversified composition of experts with different backgrounds will benefit the functioning of the ABAF.

23.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the progress achieved under the Fourth Phase of the Africa Programme, as highlighted by the latest report of the 92nd session of the Executive Council (EC-92/DG.13), and look forward to attaining further accomplishments under its Fifth Phase. We underline the importance of sustaining and funding this Programme under the regular budget allocation. In addition, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the outcome of the 17th Regional Meeting of National Authorities held in Addis-Ababa from 12 to 14 June 2019, as well as the open and constructive process of consultations between the Technical Secretariat and African States Parties in order to upgrade and further optimize the implementation of Africa Programme under its Fifth Phase.

24.- 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, welcome the work done by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach, and encourage its continuation.

25.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the project to upgrade the current OPCW Laboratory to an OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology to strengthen science and technology capabilities of the OPCW in responding to the threat of chemical weapons as well as to support capacity building in the States Parties. We, therefore, encourage States Parties to support the establishment of the Centre as appropriate, and urge that its modalities and mandate be considered and adopted by the PMO's, thus ensuring ownership of all States Parties. We also stress the importance of transparency in the establishment as well as the future work of the Centre.

26.- 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.

27.- 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.

28.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage 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.

29.- 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 technical assistance and support to States Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in carrying out their national implementation measures.

30.- The NAM CWC States Parties and China re-emphasize that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat must be fair and transparent and 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, at all professional levels of the Organisation. We believe one of the most effective way to achieve this objective is for the Technical Secretariat to devise appropriate modalities of a funded internship and Junior Professional Officer programme, which will enable candidates from developing regions including female candidates, to more easily access professional positions in the Technical Secretariat.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson,

31.- We encourage States Parties to work in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation for the successful conclusion of this session. In addition, we reiterate that the practice of consensus-based decision-making by the PMO's is the right approach for achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore, the NAM CWC States Parties and China urge all States Parties to not polarise or politicise the work of the Organization in this regard. We further reaffirm the centrality of the PMO's in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Thank you.