



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fourth Session  
25 – 29 November 2019

C-24/NAT.7  
25 November 2019  
ENGLISH only

**AZERBAIJAN**

**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 JAFAR HUSEYNZADA  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT FOR POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN  
AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

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 (Non-Aligned Movement and China), excluding Colombia who temporarily suspended its participation in the Movement.

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China States Parties and China, I would like to welcome you, Ambassador Krassimir Kostov of Bulgaria, as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this Conference to a successful conclusion.

We also wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the Chairperson of the Twenty-Third Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Yun-young Lee of the Republic of Korea for all his dedicated efforts during the Twenty-Third Session.

Since this is the first statement delivered to the Conference of the States Parties by the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, I would like to express my appreciation to the Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, for her dedication and fully fledged efforts to coordinate the Non-Aligned Movement and China in the OPCW (2016-2019).

The States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China associate themselves with the final document and declaration of the eighteenth summit of the Non-Aligned Movement held on 25-26 October 2019 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report.



The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China recall our proposal for the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group, document EC-91/NAT.3 circulated on 7 June 2019 and subsequent proposals submitted on 4 October, 1 November and 12 November 2019. We commend the facilitations conducted by Ambassador Puja of Indonesia and Ambassador Gomez of El Salvador, towards reaching consensus on the establishment of a mechanism to revitalise existing facilitation in the Organisation. We welcome the final compromise proposal suggested by the Chair of the Executive Council and co-facilitators and express the hope that the coordination meetings of the Chair, Vice Chairs and all facilitators would promote progress on all assigned topics to ensure, as soon as possible, full and effective implementation of all aspects of the Convention.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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 emphasise that these States should not derive any benefit therefrom.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China note the proposals for technical changes to the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention and encourage the States Parties to adopt both proposals simultaneously by consensus during this Twenty-Fourth Conference of the States Parties, thus strengthening the Organisation within the framework of the Convention.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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. The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

In this regard, the States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China note the visit by the Chairperson of the Executive Council, the Director-General and representatives of the Executive Council to the Pueblo Chemical Agent Destruction Plant in April 2019 and reiterate the need for the only remaining possessor State Party to complete the full and verifiable destruction of all categories of its Chemical Weapons.

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. We note that such determination also enjoyed broad consensus during the Fourth Review Conference.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China 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 Executive Council at its Eighty-Fourth Session in accordance with the destruction plan beyond the year 2016, jointly submitted by Japan and China. The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China welcome the visit by the Chairperson of the Council, the Director-General and representatives of the Council, as well as the States Parties as observers to Haerbaling ACW destruction site in Jinlin Province, People's Republic of China from 2-7 September 2019. We believe that the first-hand information acquired through such visits will contribute to the deliberations in the policy-making organs and expedite the destruction process of the chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China.

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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

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 that the approach followed by the FFM teams will be uniform and consistent.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China strongly call on all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to take into consideration our position paper on the implementation of Article XI (RC-4/NAT.72) circulated on 26 November 2018, during the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. 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 the States Parties.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China recognise 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. We believe that a comprehensive discussion in the policy-making organs on the implementation of the aforementioned components of the agreed framework is the best way to formulate an OPCW strategy for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. We underline that it is essential that the States Parties use their best efforts within the existing mechanism, as well as in future ones, to achieve this purpose.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China believe that the adoption of the Programme and Budget of the OPCW by the tradition of consensus is crucial to the smooth functioning and sustainability of the OPCW. The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China emphasise 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 States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China commend the progress achieved under the fourth phase of the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention (Africa Programme) as highlighted by the Note of the Director-General, C-24/DG.11, dated 9 September 2019. We look forward to attaining further accomplishments in the fifth phase, currently under design. We underline the importance of sustaining and funding of the Africa Programme under the regular OPCW's budgetary allocation.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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 policy-making organs 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.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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. We underline that insufficient contribution to the voluntary fund for assistance would considerably affect the capacity of the OPCW to provide the necessary medical assistance to the victims of chemical weapons. This assistance delivery should be fully consistent with the provisions of the Convention and upon States Parties' request.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China pay respect to victims of chemical weapons and their families, and in light of the decision adopted at Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (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 urge all the States Parties to actively contribute to the trust fund.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement 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.

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China encourage States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue providing appropriate, tailor-made technical assistance and technical support to States Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in carrying out their national implementation measures. We firmly believe that Article VII obligations necessitate full and effective measures by the States Parties to implement all provisions of the Convention.

The States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China re-emphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat must 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, 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 (JPO) 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, 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 policy-making organs is the right approach for achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. Therefore, the States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement and China urge all States Parties neither to polarise nor politicise the work of the Organisation in this regard. We further reaffirm the centrality of the policy-making organs in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---