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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. MR JAFAR HUSEYNZADA ACTING DIRECTOR OF
THE DEPARTMENT FOR POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
AT THE NINETY-THIRD 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 CWC States Parties and China)¹.

At the outset, I would like to welcome you back, Ambassador Andrea Perugini of Italy, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this session of the Council to a successful conclusion. We wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias and Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council, for their reports.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the consensual decision of States Parties to create a coordination mechanism to revitalise existing facilitations. We commend the positive discussions within the facilitations, and look forward to concrete actions, based on consensus, that advance the object and purpose of the Convention in a non-discriminatory and balanced manner. We further urge the Council Chairperson, in his role as Head of the Coordination Mechanism, to encourage the revitalization of all facilitations, taking into consideration the NAM and China Position Paper dated 4 October 2019.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in this regard, strongly urge the non-Parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without further delay or preconditions, and emphasise that those non-Parties should not derive any benefit therefrom.

1. Excluding Colombia who temporarily suspended its participation in the Movement.



Regarding the technical changes to the Annex on Chemicals of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the NAM CWC States Parties and China are confident that the consensus-based decision would facilitate its successful implementation.

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. We further underline that full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention contributes to regional and international peace and security.

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.

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.

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.

Noting with serious concern that the final extended deadline of 29 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 destruction of old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest possible time in accordance with the Convention and relevant decisions adopted by the PMOs.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that further efforts should be made to complete destruction of chemical weapons on the territory of China abandoned by Japan 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.

Recalling the decisions of the 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.

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 expedite efforts in the economic and technological development of the States Parties.

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 NAM CWC States Parties 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 that will enhance the implementation of this Article. Therefore, it is important that the Facilitation Framework of this Article decide on a time-frame, modalities, agenda, and recommend funding and resources that can contribute to improving the performance and effectiveness of the Annual Workshop while ensuring the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

We welcome the proposal for establishment of the Drafting Committee, in the framework of the Facilitation of Article XI, which should streamline the list of ideas that emerged from the aforementioned Review and Evaluation Workshops. We appreciate the efforts made so far by the facilitator and encourage the facilitator to continue inclusive outreach and constructive dialogue with all States Parties.

We reiterate that a comprehensive discussion in the PMOs on the implementation of decision C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011 is the effective way to formulate an OPCW strategy for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. In this regard, we strongly call on all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to also take into consideration the NAM and China proposals on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including the Plan of Action.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasise that the PMOs of the OPCW should allocate adequate financial, technical, and human resources in the implementation of International Cooperation activities, especially Article XI and other related programmes, considering national and regional needs and realities.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the progress achieved Under the Fourth Phase of the Programme to strengthen cooperation with Africa and welcome the Note of the Director-General (EC-93/DG.9, dated 18 February 2020), informing of the commencement of the Fifth Phase of this Programme. We look forward to attaining further accomplishments in this Phase and underline the importance of sustaining and funding the Programme under the regular budget of the OPCW.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their support for the project to upgrade the current OPCW Laboratory to an OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology to strengthen science and technology capabilities of the Technical Secretariat 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 PMOs. We also stress the importance of transparency in the establishment as well as the future work of the Centre.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all States Parties to fully implement their obligations under Article X. We urge 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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China pay profound respect to the 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 urge all States Parties to actively contribute to the Trust Fund. We underline that insufficient contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance will considerably limit the capacity of the OPCW to provide the necessary medical assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

NAM CWC States Parties and China underline the responsibility of the States Parties and Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to assist the victims of chemical weapons and to coordinate and deliver to them the needed equipment, materials and medicines, in accordance with Article X. We are of the view that any restrictions, including unilateral measures, imposed by some States Parties against other States Parties, which impede assistance to the victims of Chemical Weapons, are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

NAM CWC States Parties and China urge States Parties to take concrete measures, inter alia by making materials and equipment-related assistance available to those States Parties which are in need, without any restriction. In this regard, we welcome the recent efforts by the Director-General through his good offices in facilitating assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.

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

The NAM CWC States Parties 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 imperative that the Technical Secretariat ensures an equitable geographical and gender balance at all professional levels of the Organisation. We consider one of the most effective ways to achieve this objective is for the Technical Secretariat to devise appropriate modalities of a funded internship and Junior Professional Officer Programme as soon as possible, which will enable candidates from developing regions to gain access to professional positions in the Technical Secretariat more easily.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China take note with appreciation the continuing efforts to promote gender equity within the OPCW, and call for enhanced cooperation to promote the role of women and girls in the peaceful use of chemicals. In this regard, we wish to appreciate the Government of Indonesia and the Technical Secretariat for convening the 5th International Symposium on Women in Chemistry in Indonesia in July 2020.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the discussions on the Draft Decision on the OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters Rules of Procedure (ABAF) should be conducted in an open and inclusive manner, avoiding issues that may lead to politicisation and polarisation. 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 experts it deems qualified and appropriate as members of the ABAF. We consider that broad geographical distribution and composition of experts with diversified backgrounds will benefit the functioning of the ABAF.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that there is a need for further comprehensive and constructive discussions, including within the PMOs, concerning the issue of aerosolised use of central nervous system (CNS)-acting chemicals for law-enforcement purposes, before taking any concrete actions, if possible by consensus on this issue, especially as the CNS-acting chemicals are not defined or mentioned in the CWC.

In conclusion Mr. Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage States Parties to work in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation for the successful conclusion of this session. We reiterate that the practice of consensus-based decision-making by the PMOs is the right approach for achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. We urge all States Parties to neither polarise nor politicise the work of the Organisation. We further reaffirm the centrality of the PMOs in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Thank you.