



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA AT THE 111th SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE STATES PARTIES
DELIVERED BY
AMBASSADOR MIRJAM BLAAK SOW, AMBASSADOR OF UGANDA TO THE
OPCW, IN HER CAPACITY AS THE CHAIR OF THE NAM + CHINA
OPCW HEADQUARTERS, THE HAGUE
10 – 13 March 2026**

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).

At the outset, we would like to welcome H.E. Thomas Schieb, the Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Germany to the OPCW as the Chairperson of the 111th Session of the Executive Council of States Parties and express our confidence in his leadership to steer this session to a successful conclusion.

2. We also wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report. The Group conveys its appreciation to the OPCW staff for their dedication to the implementation of the Organisation's noble objectives.
3. The NAM CWC States Parties and China continue to underscore the importance for the OPCW and all States Parties to continue to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including the economic and technological development of the States Parties, especially in the fields of international cooperation and assistance.
4. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in line with the action plan for universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, 2003) and relevant decisions adopted by the OPCW's PMOs, strongly urge the non-parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without any further delay or preconditions, and emphasise that those non-parties should not derive any benefit therefrom.

5. 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 to international peace and security. We further underline that full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention contributes to regional and international peace and security.
6. Use of Toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention and international law. We also reaffirm that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.
7. We are gravely concerned that the conduct of the Israeli occupation, as a signatory to the CWC is defeating the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention, as indicated in reports by various bodies, including UN Agencies, that Israeli occupation forces have used various internationally prohibited weapons including offensive use of the chemical substance white phosphorus in the course of its continuous aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese Peoples. We also voice concern over the use of incendiary materials and riot control agents as methods of warfare against Palestinian civilians in the occupied West Bank by the Israeli occupying forces and settler militias. In this regard, we reiterate the State of Palestine's requests to the Technical Secretariat to monitor and investigate the alleged use and threat of use of chemical weapons by the Israeli occupation and request the Technical Secretariat to fully exercise its mandate and to give due consideration to appropriate measures under the Convention. A technical assistance visit, consistent with Article VIII, paragraph 38(e), of the Chemical Weapons Convention, would be both necessary and timely. The Group emphasises the importance of addressing this matter without undue delay and considers that it should not be postponed pending the resolution of existing capacity constraints.
8. We call on all States Parties to take necessary action to compel the Israeli occupation, to uphold its legal responsibilities under International Law, and the Chemical Weapons Convention, to which it is a signatory, as well as with all relevant United Nations resolutions, International Court of Justice (ICJ) rulings, in particular, the immediate termination of its military occupation.
9. The NAM CWC States Parties and China also call on Israel to end its violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to fully withdraw from Lebanese territory without delay.
10. The NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly condemn the unprovoked, unjustified, and blatant attacks carried out by Israel against the Islamic Republic of Iran in June 2025. These acts of aggression by Israel and the US have been directed against peaceful nuclear and chemical facilities, posing a serious risk of radioactive and chemical contamination with potentially devastating consequences for human health and the environment. This reprehensible attack constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN Charter, the fundamental principles of international law, including sovereignty, territorial integrity and the prohibition of threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of States, while grossly violating the fundamental rights, in particular the right to life and the right to health. We call upon the United States and Israel to refrain from any further escalatory measures in the region that could lead to catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences.
11. The NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly condemn the unprovoked and unjustified military aggression carried out by the government of the United States against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on 3 January 2026, which involved strikes against military and civilian targets in Caracas

and other cities of Venezuela, as well as the abduction of President Nicolás Maduro along with the First Lady and National Assembly's deputy Mrs. Cilia Flores. These acts of aggression constitute a serious violation of the United Nations Charter and international law that undermine regional and international peace, security and stability. We reaffirm the inviolability of the immunities granted to Heads of State and Government under international law, as it constitutes a fundamental element of the principles of sovereign equality and peaceful coexistence that should be fully respected.

12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express firm support for the proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace, established by the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2014. This declaration affirmed the region's peoples' sovereign right to determine their own destiny, free from external interference, and their commitment to resolving disputes peacefully, with the aim of eliminating the use or threat of force in the region forever.
13. The NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly condemn the blatant and indiscriminate attacks launched by Iran on 28 February 2026, which remain ongoing, against fellow NAM Member States — the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the State of Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, and the United Arab Emirates. These indiscriminate attacks have resulted in civilian casualties and significant damage to civilian infrastructure. Such actions constitute a flagrant violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the GCC Member States and Jordan. They represent a grave breach of international law and of the fundamental principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, particularly those relating to the prohibition of the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State. The targeting of civilians and civilian facilities is unacceptable and further exacerbates regional instability. What has occurred, and continues to occur, amounts to an unprovoked act of aggression against peaceful Member States that have consistently advocated for de-escalation, dialogue, and a diplomatic resolution of disputes. We call for the immediate cessation of these attacks and urge full respect for international law and the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter.
14. The NAM CWC States Parties and China condemn the use of chemical weapons by non-state actors. Deeply concerned about the use or threat of use by such actors, we request the Technical Secretariat to investigate, by the relevant provisions of the Convention, all reports on the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by such actors and keep the States Parties informed accordingly.
15. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their deep concern regarding any attempt to accuse States Parties of using chemical weapons and non-compliance with the Convention based on 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 and must be avoided.
16. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China underline that the OPCW is the competent international organisation to verify the compliance of States Parties with the provisions of the Convention, whose authority and credibility must be upheld at all times.
17. 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 by the Convention and relevant decisions adopted by the PMOs.
18. The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with concern that the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China was less than expected. We urge the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete the destruction

of the abandoned chemical weapons as early as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6, dated 15 February 2012) and its annex 3 entitled "Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2022 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" in a comprehensive, complete and faithful manner, while ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment.

19. NAM CWC and China welcome the visit of the chairperson of the Council, the Director-General, and the delegation representing the Council to the abandoned chemical weapons sites in China from 18 – 22 September, 2024, acknowledging the need for and the importance of the early elimination of the ACWs for realising a world free of chemical weapons. We look forward to strengthening supervision by OPCW on the destruction of ACWs.
20. NAM CWC States Parties and China, express their appreciation for the recent positive developments regarding the Syrian chemical weapons file. We also welcome the broad recognition by the delegations of the Executive Council at its 109th session of the constructive cooperation and engagement demonstrated by the Syrian Arab Republic, including the provision of all necessary facilitation, such as granting unrestricted access. In this context, we commend the continued constructive role of the State of Qatar, particularly through its diplomatic engagement and its support for dialogue among the relevant parties, contributing to the enhancement of cooperation, transparency, and full adherence to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
21. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their appreciation for the recent positive developments regarding the Syrian chemical weapons file. We also welcome the broad recognition by the delegations of the Executive Council at its 110th session of the constructive cooperation and engagement demonstrated by the Syrian Arab Republic, including the provision of all necessary facilitation, such as granting unrestricted access to information and suspected sites to enable the destruction of the remnants of the chemical program of the Assad era. In this context, we commend the continued constructive role of the State of Qatar, particularly through its diplomatic engagement and its support for dialogue among the relevant parties, contributing to the enhancement of cooperation, transparency, and full adherence to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
22. The NAM CWC State Parties and China strongly condemn the attacks that Israel conducted in January and February 2026 by aerial herbicide spraying using crop-duster aircraft over agricultural lands and border areas in both Lebanon and Syria. The use of such chemical agents across international borders raises serious concerns regarding potential civilian exposure, damage to agricultural livelihoods, and broader environmental consequences. Moreover, the use of chemical substances as a means of warfare is inconsistent with the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which prohibits the use of toxic chemicals for hostile purposes. The NAM state parties and China call for the immediate cessation of these activities.
23. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that Article XI deals with one of the core objectives of the CWC and is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention. We attach great importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of this Article in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under this Convention. We also emphasise the need to strengthen and expedite efforts in the economic and technological development of the States Parties.

24. 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 coercive measures 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.
25. The NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly condemn and denounce the illegal escalation of the economic blockade against Cuba, specifically the efforts to impose a total blockade on fuel supplies to the country as of 29 January 2026. As an organisation committed to prosperity of the economies of the Global South, and the stability of nations, we call for the immediate lifting of the fuel blockade. This blockade affects the proper implementation of the Convention for Cuba, which implies differential and discriminatory treatment of a State Party.
26. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise that the Annual Review and Evaluation Workshop for the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Implementation of Article XI is a useful platform to develop concrete measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article. In this regard, we request the Article XI Facilitator to report on the ideas that have emerged from workshops and other relevant activities held during the intersessional period, to be reflected in the report of the PMOs. We also request the Secretariat to provide a comprehensive report on the gaps and challenges in the effective implementation of decision C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011, which is still applicable.
27. We appreciate the efforts made so far by the Article XI Facilitator and encourage the continuation of inclusive outreach and constructive dialogue with all States Parties. We welcome the list of ideas that emerged from the above-mentioned review and evaluation workshops. We suggest to present it to the PMO for its consideration and possible approval.
28. We reiterate that a comprehensive discussion in the PMOs on the implementation of the 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 take into consideration also the NAM & China proposals (C-12/NAT.1, dated 6 November 2007) on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including the Plan of Action.
29. The NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasise the imperative of the PMOs of the OPCW to preserve permanently and allocate substantial financial, technical and human resources in the realisation of international cooperation activities in States Parties in the developing countries, considering national and regional needs, realities and challenges, including language barriers.
30. The NAM CWC States Parties and China have taken note of the transfer of funds between programmes and within sub-programmes in recent years. In this regard, we express deep concern that considerable amounts have been transferred out of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) Programme since 2018. The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to re-emphasise that the ICA is one of the core pillars of the CWC, and it is essential that a balanced approach towards allocation of funds to all programmes, including in particular the ICA, be pursued by the Technical Secretariat so that the implementation of this programme can be sustained.

31. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate its call on the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to work collectively with a view to achieving the full and effective implementation of the ICA programmes. This would include ensuring that the relevant budgetary requirements are effectively balanced and programmes delivery is promptly executed, in particular for developing countries. This is to avoid or to reduce the need for transfers between major programmes. We also ask for establishing a special fund for ICA activities that could be financed with different sources, including the retention of unspent funds for ICA and possible allocation of resources from cash surplus, as applied for other special funds. We look forward to the full implementation of the above recommendation and remain ready to be engaged in any further consultations on this matter.
32. The NAM CWC States Parties and China support the strengthening of capacity building of the States Parties through scaling up of international cooperation and assistance programs and fostering scientific and academic partnerships in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes by the ChemTech Centre. We expect the Centre to continue building the expertise of the Technical Secretariat to fulfil its mandate under the Convention, including further providing technical assistance to State Parties for its full and effective implementation. We urge that the modalities, mandate, operational needs and budgetary allocation of the Centre should be drawn up in full consultation with the States Parties and submitted for approval by (of deleted put by) States Parties through the PMOs. We also stress the importance of transparency and efficiency in all the work and programs of the Centre.
33. The NAM CWC State Parties and China take note of the launch of the Seventh Phase of the OPCW Programme in January 2026 to strengthen cooperation with Africa and the implementation of its previous phases. The group also appreciates the work conducted by the Technical Secretariat and encourages the strengthening of capacity building activities, notably through south-south cooperation. We reiterate our call that the funding of this programme should be under the regular budget of the OPCW, in order to guarantee its sustainability and predictability.
33. Building on the positive outcomes of “CHEMEX AFRICA I”, co-organised by the Government of Algeria and the Technical Secretariat in Algiers, under the Africa Programme, the Group welcomes the organisation of CHEMEX AFRICA II and CHEMEX GRULAC, considering the role of these large-scale exercises in fostering States Parties’ capabilities on assistance and protection and promoting South -South Cooperation.
34. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the need for 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.
35. The NAM CWC States Parties and China pay profound 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 urge all the 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 essential medicines and necessary medical assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.
36. Recalling the “International Symposium on Medical Treatment of Chemical Warfare Victims: Challenges and Hopes”, which took place on 28-29 June 2018, in the Hague, the NAM CWC States Parties and China request to hold such Symposiums regularly in order to establish an International

Network composed of scientists, clinicians, experts, academia and civil society with the aim to evaluate the short and long-term effects of chemical weapons on victims and make recommendations accordingly. We also call upon the Director-General to encourage the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) to further discuss the Symposium's objectives, and integrate assistance for the victims of chemical weapons into the programs and activities of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

37. The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with appreciation the international training course on medical assistance and protection against chemical weapons co-organised by China and the Technical Secretariat in Xi'an in October 2024.
38. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their concern for victims of chemical weapons, which require specific and urgent assistance of the States Parties, particularly those in a position to do so and call on the Organisation to give top priority to them. In this regard, the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) could play an important role.
39. 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.
40. NAM CWC States Parties and China urge States Parties to take concrete measures, including, inter alia, by providing materials and equipment-related assistance available to those States Parties which are in need, without any restriction. In this regard, we welcome the efforts by the Director-General for his good offices to facilitate assistance to the victims of chemical weapons. In order to reach a positive outcome on this matter, we encourage the Director-General to continue and intensify his efforts and inform the EC about the latest developments on the subject.
41. 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 and provide the necessary financial support to do so. We firmly believe that Article VII obligations necessitate full and effective measures by all States Parties to implement all provisions of the Convention and encourage them to continue working towards this end.
42. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the recruitment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat must be fair, transparent and must ensure equitable geographic distribution, as mandated by Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention, and gender balance at all professional levels of the Organisation. We emphasise that any amendment to the tenure policy shall not change the non-career nature of this Organization. Furthermore, we call upon the Secretariat to devise as soon as possible appropriate modalities of a funded internship and Junior Professional Officer Programme, which will enable candidates from developing States Parties, to have equitable access to professional positions in the Technical Secretariat.
43. The NAM CWC States Parties and China urge the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to embody in the organizational governance, required policy, programs and structural necessities to contribute to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the CWC in particular Article X and XI, while preserving the OPCW's experiences, expertise and organizational governance

on the destruction/elimination of chemical weapons and to further strengthen the CWC in its entirety, taking into account the CWC as a unique multilateral negotiated disarmament instrument and ensuring the OPCW relevance.

44. Given the fact that the use of chemical weapons would have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and bearing in mind that the original object of the CWC is to safeguard humankind from the threat of CWCs use, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the OPCW shall ensure that the identification and addressing the direct and indirect impacts of the chemical weapons on women and girls are effectively embedded in its programs and activities.
45. 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 chemistry. We look forward to the continuation of efforts to engage and represent women from all geographical regions to promote the full and effective implementation of the Convention.
46. 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, while preserving its independence and avoiding issues that may lead to its 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 a member of the ABAF. We consider that the broad geographical distribution and composition of experts with diversified backgrounds will benefit the functioning of the ABAF.
47. NAM States Parties to the CWC and China recall that the decision C-26/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2021 was regrettably adopted by vote, and reiterate the importance to address the issue of Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System (CNS)-acting chemicals for law-enforcement purposes through dialogue and consensus.
48. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the firm belief that peace, security and economic and social development are indivisible. Moreover, as the elimination of the declared chemical weapons has been completed following the extended deadline, it is highly pertinent and timely to emphasise the importance of the chemical industry's role in the sustained growth and development of the States Parties, in particular, developing parties. Hence, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their stance on the necessity of further recognition and addressing the promotion of trade and international cooperation in the field of peaceful application of chemistry as one of the main priorities and functions of the OPCW.
49. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attaches great importance to Emerging Technologies and considers that the time is opportune for the OPCW to elaborate a comprehensive strategy on these technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence, including its role in strengthening the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, building upon the outcomes and the recommendations of the first global Conference on the role of AI, organized jointly by the Kingdom of Morocco and the Technical Secretariat in Rabat in October 2024. The Group further calls for the continuation of discussions within the Organisation, notably through enhanced interactions between States Parties and relevant subsidiary bodies such as the Scientific Advisory Board, given the strategic importance of this issue for the future of all States Parties.

50. In this spirit, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the inaugural AI capacity building workshop co-organised by China and the OPCW, the Workshop on AI and Chemical Safety and Security Management in Shanghai in June 2025. We note with appreciation that the Shanghai AI workshop has provided an important platform for States Parties to develop AI technology for the peaceful uses of chemistry, strengthen capacity building of the Global South, and contribute to the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which is in line with the spirit of the *Global AI Governance Initiative* and the *AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All* proposed by China, as well as the UNGA resolution entitled “Enhancing international cooperation on capacity-building of artificial intelligence” (A/RES/78/311, dated 5 July 2024).
51. The NAM CWC States Parties and China request the Technical Secretariat to further enhance its activities in the field of education and outreach to chemical industries of the developing States Parties and put in place a needs assessment mechanism to promote international cooperation in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes in a more tailored and efficient way.
52. The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the Technical Secretariat’s activities on e-learning modules and encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue improving these modules and foster more cooperation with relevant stakeholders in the field of assistance and protection.
53. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their keenness to continue working with other States Parties towards finding common ground to guarantee States Parties’ rights of choice during elections without restraints or undue procedural impositions or limitations.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the decision of the CSP30 regarding the extension of the mandate of the OEWG on the current implementation of the rules of procedures governing the election of members of EC until the next CSP. We take note of the proposal shared by the Chair of the CSP30 and encourage constructive dialogues and consultations with all stakeholders, in addition to the written submissions, in an effort to reach consensus.