



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Eighteenth Session  
2 – 5 December 2013

C-18/NAT.19  
2 December 2013  
ENGLISH only

**IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. S A ARAGHCHI DEPUTY FOR LEGAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,

On behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (NAM CWC States Parties) and China, I would like to welcome you, Ambassador Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali of Iraq, to the Chair of the Eighteenth 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 the opportunity to appreciate Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa for all his efforts during the Seventeenth Session.

We appreciate the efforts of the Director-General during the past four years to promote the role of the Organisation in the international disarmament regime and to carry out its functions under the Convention, and assisting the Conference and the Executive Council in the performance of their functions. The NAM CWC States Parties and China also express their full support on the appointment of Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for the second term.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the OPCW for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013. This award is a timely recognition of the collective contribution of the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat in carrying out the responsibilities and the functions entrusted to them under the Convention.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China remain committed to the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a threat to international peace and security. Consequently, 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 line with the first preambular paragraph of the Convention.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, is a



fundamental pillar of the Convention. Based on the Director-General's reports at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council as well as the destruction plans submitted by the concerned States Parties, we remain seriously concerned that those States Parties have not complied with this obligation of the Convention, thus endangering its credibility and integrity. We therefore strongly call upon those concerned States Parties to strictly comply with this fundamental pillar and the relevant decisions approved by the policy-making organs (PMOs), on all categories of chemical weapons, with a view to achieving their complete destruction in the shortest time possible under verification by the OPCW. We also reaffirm that the destruction and verification of the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, shall continue to be the top priority of the Organisation.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China firmly believe that the contribution of the Convention to the promotion of international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full adherence to universality of the Convention. We commend the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties for their commitment to promote the universality of the Convention and encourage them to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date. We also emphasise that States that remain outside the Convention would not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to the States Parties.

In this context, we welcome the accession of the Republic of Somalia and the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention as the 189th and 190th States Parties, which are significant steps towards achieving universality of the Convention. We hereby strongly call on the other States not Party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and precondition particularly those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern.

Given the report of the United Nations Investigation Team on use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic on 21 August, we firmly underline that the use of chemical weapons by anyone under any circumstances would be reprehensible and completely contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community. We also underscore that no party or parties in the Syrian Arab Republic should use, develop, acquire, produce, stockpile, retain or transfer chemical weapons, and call for full cooperation in order to implement the decisions of the Executive Council.

We welcome the decisions of the Executive Council at its Thirty-Third (EC-M-33/DEC.1 dated 27 September 2013) and Thirty-Fourth (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013) Meetings on destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the EC decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the independent role of the OPCW and its verification measures and call upon all the States Parties in a position to do so to provide voluntary contributions to the verification and destruction trust funds for the implementation of these decisions.

While paying due respect to all chemical weapons victims and their families, the NAM CWC States Parties and China, 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 who contributed to the trust fund and further reiterate our call upon the Technical Secretariat to activate the network fully and encourage the States Parties to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the network.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage the States Parties to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to other States Parties and to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without undue restrictions.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. In this context, we underline that the following elements should be taken into consideration by the policy making organs of the Organisation:

- (a) Developing an action plan for full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. In this context, a proposal was made by the NAM CWC States Parties and China to the Third Review Conference which is to be considered during the Article XI consultations;
- (b) Allocation of adequate financial and human resources for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives within the Technical Secretariat;
- (c) Adopting necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding Article XI;
- (d) Promotion of international cooperation 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 and affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among the States Parties.

In the context of the implementation of Article VII, the NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to the States Parties, at their request, and to come up with appropriate and tailored solutions to overcome the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by individual States Parties in carrying out their national implementation measures. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that national legislations should be in line with the provisions of the Convention and as comprehensive as possible to monitor the chemical activities in a way that provisions of the Convention are implemented and the obligations of the Member States are met.

On the follow-up of the Third Review Conference recommendations, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the transparent, holistic and balanced approach shall prevail for implementation of these recommendations. We believe that there should be a mechanism to consider all the recommendations and put forward practical proposals to the policy-making organs for their implementation. In this context, selective approaches shall be prevented.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the continued implementation of the Programme for Africa by the Technical Secretariat and support developing of new actions and projects in order to strengthen the Programme.

On the Draft 2014 Programme and Budget, we wish to underline the importance in achieving a balance among the different items of the OPCW budget. While highlighting the importance of international cooperation and assistance and the obligations of the States Parties in this regard, we are of the view that the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW also plays an important role in the effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including through provision of required financial and human resources.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you.

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