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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI
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OPCW ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA AT THE
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam 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 Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia, to the Chair of the Nineteenth 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 Chairperson of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Dr. Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali for all his dedicated efforts during the Eighteenth Session.

We express our thanks to the Director-General, H. E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his informative and comprehensive report delivered in this session and appreciate his efforts and his team in Technical Secretariat to promote the role of the Organisation in the international disarmament regime and to carry out its functions 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. We hereby strongly call on the 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 concerns.

We welcome the decisions of the Executive Council at its meetings with respect to the elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons as well as the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the relevant Executive Council decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons. We also welcome the significant progress achieved in elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons in particular the decision taken by Executive Council at its Forty-Third Meeting with regard to the destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities and preparation for the implementation of that decision. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the independent role of the OPCW and its verification measures in carrying out its professional functions in cooperation with the United Nations.

Having received the Note by the Technical Secretariat entitled "Second Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria-Key Findings" (S/1212/2014, dated 10 September 2014) of which a number of delegations at the Forty-Fifth Meeting of the Council expressed diverse views on the findings of the report. The NAM CWC States Parties and China underline that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as a weapon 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 have received the "Facilitator's Informal Document" on Article XI which includes the elements of the action plan proposed by the NAM CWC States Parties and China to the Third Review Conference, the relevant decision taken at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, the recommendations of the Third Review Conference and the inputs from workshops/seminars held on Article XI. We look forward to the continuation of Article XI consultations with a view to further deliberate the Document as soon as possible for discussion by delegations aimed at reaching a decision in order to fully implement all the provisions of the Article XI in an effective and non-discriminatory manner.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the implementation of all provisions of Article XI; therefore, while emphasising that the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW plays an important role in the effective implementation of this Article including through provision of required financial and human resources, we underline that the following elements should also be taken into consideration by the policy making organs of the Organisation, inter alia:

- (a) Allocation of adequate financial and human resources in annual Programme and Budget of the Organisation for the implementation of Article XI related programmes and initiatives within the Technical Secretariat;
- (b) Adoption of necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding Article XI;
- (c) Promotion of international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field 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.

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 for their contributions and also the decision made by the Director-General for the OPCW's contribution from the Nobel Peace Prize to the trust fund and further reiterate our call upon the Technical Secretariat to activate the network fully and encourage the States Parties to donate 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.

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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China reemphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat is to be fair and transparent and stress that in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention, the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. It is imperative to ensure that the Technical Secretariat observe an equitable geographical and gender representation, particularly at the professional level.

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2013 was awarded to the OPCW which was 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. In this context, we welcome the initiative of the Director-General to establish the annual OPCW-The Hague Award as the outcome of its winning of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Finally, since this is the last session of the Conference of the States Parties during the three-year term of the chairmanship of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Non-Aligned Movement from 2012 to 2015, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Member States to the Non-Aligned Movement and China for their confidence and consistent cooperation extended to help the Islamic Republic of Iran in its chairmanship and leading the Non-Aligned Movement in the right direction. I wish all the best and success for the next chair of the Non-Aligned Movement.

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

Thank you.

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