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**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR HAIFA AISSAMI MADAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF
VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW AT THE
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE 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 (NAM CWC States Parties and China).

On behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, I would like to congratulate you, Ambassador Abdelouahab Bellouki of Morocco, for your election as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Second Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We 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-First Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Dr Christoph Israng of Germany for all his dedicated efforts during the Twenty-First Session.

We express our thanks to the Director-General, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, for his informative and comprehensive report delivered at this session and appreciate his continued efforts and those of his team in the Technical Secretariat to promote further the role of the Organisation in the international disarmament regime and to carry out its functions under the Convention. We also wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Üzümcü, for your contribution and dedicated efforts during eight years of invaluable work in service of the Organisation.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China join the celebration of the anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, renew its commitment to the principles it inspires and encourage all to continue working together for a world free of chemical weapons. To this end, we commend States Parties for organising befitting events in celebrating the 20th anniversary.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China would like to congratulate the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism of African Union based in Algiers, Algeria, and the



International Master Courses in Protection Against CBRNe Events at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, as joint recipients of the 2017 OPCW–The Hague Award.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China, while committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention for the realisation of its objectives and purposes, acknowledge that the implementation of the Convention will contribute to international peace and security.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and strongly urge States not party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and preconditions. We also emphasise that States remaining outside the Convention should not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to the States Parties.

The existence and proliferation 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 paragraph of the preamble of the Convention.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China continue to 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 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 the chemical weapons by terrorist groups and are deeply concerned by the threats of the use of chemical weapons by them and request the Technical Secretariat to investigate in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention all reports on the use of chemical weapons and keep the States Parties informed accordingly.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their deep concern regarding the attempt to accuse States Parties of using chemical weapons on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations made by media reports or 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 NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the destruction of chemical weapons is the fundamental and top priority of the Organisation and urge all possessor States Parties to take all necessary measures to ensure their compliance with the provisions of the Convention and relevant decisions of the policy-making organs.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the completion of the full destruction of the chemical weapons stockpile possessed by the Russian Federation under OPCW verification.

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, a 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 take note of the recent report (EC-87/DG.5, dated 24 November 2017)) by the Director-General on the status of the implementation of the plan for the destruction of Libya's remaining Category II chemical weapons outside the territory of Libya.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the visit by a delegation of representatives of the Executive Council and the Director-General, headed by the Executive Council Chairperson to Haerbaling abandoned chemical weapons destruction site, China, from 12 to 16 June 2017. We believe such visits help the Council to obtain better understanding of the ACW issue. We hope that the Conference and the Council will pay further attention to and assist in the process of the destruction of the ACWs.

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 NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the substantive efforts made and progress achieved in this regard. We look forward to the continuation of a successful cooperation existing between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the letter by the Director-General, in which he forwarded to the States Parties the Seventh (7th) report prepared by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). We also take note of the diverse points of views on this issue.

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 speed up efforts in this regard. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to take into consideration our position paper on the implementation of Article XI circulated on 1 December 2016, during the Twenty-First Session of the Conference 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 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, affect the Convention's long term viability and have an adverse impact on the existing level of trust among the States Parties.

Bearing in mind the importance of the adoption of an action plan for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, the NAM CWC States Parties and China

believe that the States Parties shall provide concrete recommendations and proposals to the Fourth Review Conference.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the holding of the Second Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI on 21 November 2017. We take note of the report to be presented by the facilitator of Article XI, containing considerations and ideas emerged during this workshop. We kindly request that the final report of the Twenty-Second Conference of the States Parties reflect that such report will be presented to the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities (OEWG-FP) and considered as part of the discussions leading to the Fourth Review Conference as a contribution to the transparent, balanced, and consensus-driven discussions in those groups during 2018.

NAM CWC States Parties and China continue to encourage the widest and active participation of States Parties in these annual workshops, and agreed that they are additional inputs for the promotion of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

We welcome the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat to enhance the implementation of Article XI, and we believe that this requires continuous collaboration between the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties.

The NAM CWC and China commend the work done by the Technical Secretariat and facilitators of the OPCW Programme and Budget for 2018, Mr Bahram Jamali of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Mr Gerhard Eisl of the Republic of Austria. We would like to emphasise that the policy-making organs of the OPCW should allocate adequate financial and human resources in its annual Programme and Budget for the implementation of International Cooperation activities, especially Article XI, and other related programmes, taking into account national and regional economic needs and realities.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the importance of the ongoing Fourth phase of the programme to strengthen cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention and appreciate the crucial role of the Director-General in the development of this important initiative. We look forward to continuing the programme in an effective and pragmatic manner primarily under the Organisation's regular budget allocation in cooperation with the African States Parties, The African Union, as well as its Regional Economic Communities.

The NAM CWC State Parties and China recognise the importance of education and outreach programmes in achieving the main objectives of the Convention, and in this regard, we welcome the work done by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. We also welcome all regional meetings held to contribute in formulating recommendations on education and outreach.

The NAM CWC States Parties 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. This assistance

delivery should be fully consistent with the provisions of the Convention and upon States Parties' request.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China pay 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 encourage all the States Parties to actively contribute to the Trust Fund.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage the States Parties that are in a position to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to those States Parties which are in need, upon request as well as to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without unnecessary 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 providing meaningful assistance and technical support to the States Parties in enhancing their national capacities, upon request. The Technical Secretariat could then come up with appropriate and tailor-made 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 re-emphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat to 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, particularly at the professional level.

With regard to the appointment of the new Director-General, the NAM CWC States Parties and China extend their warm felicitations and good wishes to Ambassador Fernando Arias of Spain on his unanimous recommendation by the Executive Council for the position of Director-General of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. We also take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and profound appreciation to the other six candidates for their spirit of flexibility leading to the consensus and the success of this process. Herewith we appreciate the role of the Chairperson of the Executive Council, Ambassador Sheikh Mohammed Belal of Bangladesh, for leading this process in an open, transparent and robust manner.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the importance of the establishment of appropriate rules of procedures for the future appointments of the OPCW Director-General. It is also essential that such rules of procedures provide due importance to equitable geographical and balanced gender representation in line with other international organisations.

With regard to the future priorities of the Organisation, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the discussions need to be brought within the parameters of the policy-making organs guided and driven by States Parties and the main focus of the Organisation should remain in the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons, as one of the main pillars of the Convention.

We recognise the important work done so far by the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the OPCW guided by the Co-Chairs, Ambassador Bruce Koloane of South Africa and Ambassador Sabine Nölke of Canada. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage continued discussion to formulate a document in this regard in order to be considered at the Fourth Review Conference. We reiterate the importance of this working group and encourage its close cooperation with all regional groups.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the continuation of the important work of the Chairpersons, Ambassador Momar Diop of Senegal, on the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and Ambassador María Teresa Infante, of Chile on the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We also take note of the diverse views on this issue and encourage further dialogue and consultation in accordance with the Convention.

On the follow-up of the Third Review Conference recommendations, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the transparent, comprehensive and balanced approach shall prevail for implementation of these recommendations. In this context, selective approaches shall be prevented. We recall that the Matrix was developed as a mechanism to comprehensively monitor the implementation of the Third Review Conference recommendations. The NAM CWC States Parties and China therefore welcome the update on the progress-made by the Technical Secretariat.

In conclusion Mr Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the necessity of upholding the principles set out in the Convention and call upon all States Parties not to polarise or politicise the work of the Organisation. We encourage the States Parties to work cooperatively to achieve consensus and successful conclusion of the present session.

Thank you.

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