



سفارة جمهورية السودان
هولندا - لاهاي

Embassy of the Republic of the Sudan
The Hague-the Netherlands

Koninginnegracht 63-64, 2514 AG The Hague, The Netherlands Tel: +31(0)70-3605300 • Fax: 0031(0)70-3617975
E-mail: info@sudanembassy.nl • www.sudanembassy.nl

**STATEMENT BY H.E. SIRAJUDDIN HAMID YOUSIF
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SUDAN
ON BEHALF OF THE AFRICAN GROUP OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CWC**

At The Third Conference of the States Parties
To Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention
The Hague, 8-19 April 2013

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the African States Parties to the CWC I would like to welcome you as Chairperson of The Third Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We are confident that, given your vast experience and expertise in the field, you will be able to steer the deliberations of the Third Review Conference to a successful conclusion.

I wish to thank the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu, for his comprehensive report and for his consistent efforts to promote the work of the organization.

I would also like to express our gratitude to the Chairman of the Open-ended Working Group for the preparation of the Third Review Conference, H.E. Ambassador Nassima Baghli, of Algeria, for her hard work dedicated efforts in the preparation of the draft report document of the Third Review Conference.

The African Group of States Parties to the CWC associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China by the Deputy for International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran H.E. M. M. Akhondzadeh, and also with the working paper and action plan attached thereto.

Mr. Chairman,

The African Group of States Parties to the CWC stresses that the prime task of the Third Review Conference is to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention since the last Review Conference with the view of upholding the Convention in its entirety and achieving the full, effective and balanced implementation of all its provisions by all States Parties.

It has been the tradition of the African Group of States Parties to the CWC to reiterate its position during the regular CSP and EC sessions regarding the most important issues relating to the implementation of the Convention. It is now pertinent that the Third Review Conference should as well be informed on the position of the African Group with some elaboration as follows:

Mr. Chairman,

(1) The failure to meet the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons, by some possessor States, is an important milestone in the history of this Organization. It was momentous in that the Organization had to confront a situation where one of the key provisions of the Convention had not been fully met and where key decisions of previous Sessions of the Executive Council had not been fully implemented. Fortunately, after an intensive work undertaken by the

Conference of States Parties, the Executive Council and the States Parties concerned, we are now in a position where the necessary decisions that determine how this situation should be dealt with after the 29 April 2012 deadline are all in place, and there is no need to reopen discussion on this issue.

In this regard, the Africa Group would like to underline that the adoption of the decisions relating to the final extended deadline was done on the basis of a clear acceptance by all States Parties and their unequivocal commitment for the complete destruction of their remaining chemical weapons in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and with the application of the measures contained in the relevant decisions.

The Africa Group would like, therefore, to further emphasize that each of the States Parties concerned, be it chemical weapons stockpiles, abandoned chemical weapons or old chemical weapons, should make every effort to complete their destruction in the shortest time possible in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Annex on Implementation and Verification and with the full application of all the measures contained in decision C-16/DEC.11 on the final extended deadline of 29 April 2012.

Mr. Chairman,

(2) As regards the issue of the Universality of the Convention; the Africa Group wishes to reiterate that the universality of the Convention is a *sine qua non* to achieving its object and purpose and to enhancing the security of States Parties, as well as international peace and security, and to underline that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single State not Party in possession or acquisition of such weapons.

The Africa Group welcomes the fact that five additional States had joined the Convention since the 2nd Review Conference, but also notes with concern that there are still eight States which remain outside the umbrella of the Convention including some whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern.

To that end, the Africa Group strongly backs up the Director General's endeavours to attend and address the 21st Ordinary African Union Summit which will be held in Addis Ababa during the month of May 2013 in order to brief the African Union Summit on the implementation of the Convention with a special emphasis on Universality.

The Africa Group wishes to stress the importance of the Action Plan on Universality (EC-M-23/DEC.3, dated 24 October 2003) and the subsequent decisions of the Conference of the States Parties to regularly review the results and implementation of it and to take any decision it deems necessary addressing, in particular, the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence is a cause for serious concern and that States that remain outside the Convention shall not be able to take advantage of the benefits it offers to States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

(3) The continued implementation of the Programme for Africa by the OPCW is of vital significance and this conference should at least recognize that fact and give strategic directions to the full engagement of the Organization in this programme for the future years with the objective of fully and effectively implementing the Convention by addressing factors that hinder the development of national capacities of African States Parties and encouraging the progress towards their successful implementation of the CWC.

The Africa Group continues to appreciate the efforts of the OPCW Director-General to strengthen cooperation with African States Parties through the Africa Programme. The Africa Programme should further aim at increasing the participation in programmes and activities that promote the use of chemistry for peaceful purposes, in order to enhance national protective capacities. The importance of the

obligations contained in the Convention to promote the peaceful application of chemistry should not be underestimated.

In this connection, the African Group commends the work of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) of the OPCW and encourages all States Parties to actively engage therewith. The African Group also supports the continued exchange of scientific knowledge, equipment and related technologies and appreciates the work so far done by the Technical Secretariat with regard to the capacity-building programmes and activities that continue to promote the safe use and transfer of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. The outcome of this Conference should recognize the importance of ensuring that sufficient resources are allocated to the Africa Programme in order to ensure its success.

Mr. Chairman,

(4) The implementation of national obligations and implementation measures in accordance with Article VII of the Convention is another important aspect which should be meticulously addressed by this Conference. There is no doubt that full implementation of the Convention contributes to the international and regional peace and security.

The African Group acknowledges the considerable progress so far achieved in the implementation of Article VII but also recognizes the various challenges confronted by developing States Parties in this regard.

The continuous flow of assistance and technical support to States Parties guarantees the effective realization of the objectives of Article VII. National legislations of States Parties should be comprehensively synchronized with the provisions of the Convention to the extent possible in order to monitor the relevant chemical activities in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and obligations of the States parties.

Mr. Chairman,

(5) The implementation of Article X and its provisions relating to assistance and protection against chemical weapons is another important aspect which this Conference should focus on. The African Group encourage all States Parties to fully implement their obligations under Article X and to continue to contribute to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance on a regular basis, so that the OPCW could be in a position to develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance and to respond positively to the increasing demands of States Parties for assistance, particularly to the victims of chemical weapons.

The African Group shares with NAM the view that the OPCW should move expeditiously, in line with the decision adopted by the CSP at its 16th Session (C-16/DEC.13, dated 02-12-2011), to establish and start up the International Support Network and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its Voluntary Trust Fund.

Mr. Chairman,

(6) The Africa Group has constantly called for the development of agreed concrete measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. The full implementation of Article XI is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention.

The Africa Group is of the view that the decision taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its 16th Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) on "Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI" constitutes an important step towards the full implementation of this article.

The Africa Group strongly supports the NAM view that a plan of action is the best tool to ensure the full implementation of Article XI as a fundamental pillar of the Convention. The working Paper presented to the Third Review Conference by NAM entitled "Proposal for a Plan of Action on the Full Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention" represents a good basis in this endeavor.

The obligation of the States Parties to cooperate and implement the Convention without hampering economic or technological development and for purposes not prohibited under the Convention cannot be over emphasized. It is imperative to ensure the removal of and to avoid the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

Developed countries are therefore called upon to fulfill their commitment to transfer technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and to remove any discriminatory restrictions, such as unilateral sanctions against other States Parties. The African Group wishes in this regard to reiterate and join the call by NAM that the international cooperation programs of the OPCW should foster economic and technological development through international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, in accordance with the provisions of Article XI, and should, in particular, contribute to the development of States Parties' capacities to implement the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

(7) The African Group notes with satisfaction that the OPCW verification system has been strengthened and become relatively effective in meeting the requirements of the Convention. The African Group calls for its further strengthening in a manner consistent with the Convention and in response to advances in science and technology and the approved SAB recommendations.

The African Group also calls upon the OPCW to conduct a sufficient number of inspections under Article VI with appropriate geographical coverage and frequency, in accordance with the agreed guidelines, and also to assist National Authorities, upon request, in building up and improving their capacity to fulfil their obligations under the verification regime.

In doing so, it is important that the implementation of the Convention's verification provisions shall continue in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological advancement of the States Parties and void undue intrusion into the chemical activities of States Parties for purposes not prohibited under the Convention in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Annex on the Protection of Confidential Information.

Mr. Chairman,

(8) The African Group of States Parties to the CWC further stresses the need for equitable geographical and gender representation in the professional ranks of the Organisation, particularly in the senior and management cadres and further recalls that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW should be fair and transparent. This is an important aspect for which the Conference should provide guidance and directives.

Mr. Chairman,

(9) Regarding the consultations that are taking place on the future role of the Organisation; and on the improved and effective functioning of the Executive Council. The African States Parties attach great importance to the process of discussions on issues related to the future development of the Organization emanating from the recommendations of the Advisory Panel established by the Director-General on the future priorities of the Organization.

The Group would like to reiterate its earlier position on the matter that any decision on this issue, should be decided upon by the Policy Making Organs (PMO) of the Organization. Our view remains that States Parties, through the PMOs need to find an appropriate and agreed forum to facilitate consideration of these issues in a thorough, transparent and holistic manner aiming at reaching consensus amongst States Parties.

In this regard, the Group wishes to emphasize, once again, that the core objective of this Organization is to destroy all categories of chemical weapons under strict international verification. While we focus on this core objective, we should also attempt to maintain a careful balance in resource allocation across all the activities envisioned in the Convention in the most efficient and effective manner possible. The African Group wishes to reiterate that it favours an approach that allows for natural progression and development of the Organization with regard to its activities and programmes.

Mr. Chairman,

(9) Finally, the African Group attaches great importance to the deliberations of the OEWG conducted under the leadership of the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria HE Nasima Baghli and the draft report document these deliberations has produced.

The African Group wishes to see that both the political statement and the review report which are envisioned as a possible outcome of the Conference, be reflected in one document containing both the political forward looking statement as part A and the Review Report of the Conference as part B, for example. The African Group is not in favour of a multiplicity of documents as an outcome of this important conference and hope that this position will be given due consideration by all the conferees.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to conclude by emphasizing that the African Group of States Parties to the CWC are fully committed to their obligations under the Convention, and are looking forward to the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in the shortest time possible, and also by assuring you of their full cooperation in ensuring the success of this Third Review Conference. The African Group would like to request you that this Statement be circulated and treated as an official document of the Third Review Conference.

Thank you