



OPCW

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION AND CHINA**

POSITION PAPER

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Sixteen years after its entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) is a unique multilateral agreement which bans an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner, under strict and effective international control. The Convention is a major contribution to international peace and security as it mandates the elimination of chemical weapons, sets new standards for global disarmament, enhances verification compliance, provides assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and promotes international cooperation in the chemical field for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
- 1.2 The group of States Parties to the Convention that are members of the Non-Aligned Movement, and China (hereinafter “the NAM CWC States Parties and China”), wish to state their principal position regarding some aspects of the Convention that are of special interest to the group:
- (a) Preamble and international security
 - (b) Destruction of chemical weapons and destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities
 - (c) Universality
 - (d) National implementation measures
 - (e) Assistance and protection against chemical weapons
 - (f) Full implementation of Article XI
 - (g) Verification activities under the Convention



2. Preamble and international security

- 2.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the existence of weapons of mass destruction poses a serious threat to international peace and security.
- 2.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their long-standing principled position for the achievement of general and complete disarmament, under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction.
- 2.3 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the balanced, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose, as well as to the promotion of the peace and security as a whole, and reiterate their commitment to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.
- 2.4 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that the OPCW, as the competent multilateral organisation, provides a solid mechanism for States Parties to consult one another and to cooperate in solving any problems that may arise in relation to the object and purpose of the Convention and its implementation.
- 2.5 We attach great importance to the issues related to the future development of the Organisation, and in this regard we stress that any decision on this matter should be decided upon by the policy-making organs (PMOs) of the Organisation. In our view, States Parties, through the PMOs, need to find an appropriate and agreed upon forum to facilitate consideration of the issues in a thorough, transparent and holistic manner aimed at reaching consensus. In this context, we further stress that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons should continue to be the top priority until their complete destruction.

3. Destruction of chemical weapons and destruction or conversion of chemical weapons production facilities

- 3.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China call for the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons by the possessor States Parties and reiterate the importance of the total elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, in line with the first preambular paragraph of the Convention.
- 3.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China note the significant advances by some possessor States Parties in the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles since the Second Review Conference. In this regard, we welcome the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles of India and A State Party.
- 3.3 Nevertheless, we remain seriously concerned that based on the Director-General's reports at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council as well as destruction plans submitted by the concerned States Parties, they have not met the final extended deadline, since the destruction process will not conclude until September 2023, according to the aforementioned plans.
- 3.4 In this context, the NAM CWC States Parties and China firmly believe that it is imperative for the major possessor States Parties to ensure compliance with their

obligations and the relevant decisions approved by the PMOs and to accelerate the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons stockpiles in order to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention. Every necessary measure to ensure the completion of destruction of the chemical weapons stockpiles should be taken in the shortest time possible by the major possessor States Parties.

- 3.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the obligation and responsibility regarding the destruction of chemical weapons lie solely with the possessor States Parties, and that fulfilment of this obligation is essential to the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention.
- 3.6 The NAM CWC States Parties and China remain seriously concerned that the deadline of 29 April 2012 for the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons has not been fully met. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the importance of the destruction of abandoned chemical weapons for the full realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention, and call upon abandoning States Parties to make the fullest possible efforts to complete destruction in the shortest time possible, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and with the relevant decisions of the Executive Council.
- 3.7 The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall and welcome the Council's decision, EC-67/DEC.8, dated 17 February 2012, regarding modification of a decision relating to the concerned States Party's obligation to destroy all its old chemical weapons in accordance with the Convention. We further call upon all the other States Parties that possess old chemical weapons to also complete their destruction of these chemical weapons in the shortest time possible.
- 3.8 We also reaffirm that the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons and their verification shall continue to be the top priority of the Organisation. The States Parties and the PMOs should remain seized of this issue as a matter of priority.

4. Universality

- 4.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the universality of the Convention is fundamental to the achievement of its object and purpose and to the enhancement of international peace and security. We underline that the goal of universality is to be pursued by the Technical Secretariat, as well as by all States Parties, as a matter of high priority.
- 4.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the accession of five new States Parties, namely Guinea Bissau, Lebanon, Bahamas, the Dominican Republic and Iraq since the Second Review Conference. We state our satisfaction at the steady increase in the number of States joining the Convention, which has now reached 188, and will continue to support appropriate activities to promote the universality of the Convention, including those related to the action plan for the universality of the Convention and subsequent decisions adopted by the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties.
- 4.3 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through the universality of the Convention. Furthermore, we express concern about

the fact that there remains a total of 8 States not Party to the Convention, including two signatory States and six non-signatory States, and call upon all States not Party to join the Convention without further delay and precondition, particularly those whose non-adherence to the Convention is a cause for serious concern.

- 4.4 The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognise the particular importance of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention to achieve its universality, which also aims at enhancing international peace and security.
- 4.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their profound disappointment regarding the statement issued by the conveners of the 2012 Conference on the establishment of a Middle East Zone Free of Nuclear weapons and all other Weapons of Mass Destruction on not convening the Conference in 2012 as scheduled. We encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue contributing actively to the Establishment of a Zone in the Middle East Free of Weapons of Mass Destruction.
- 4.6 The NAM CWC States Parties and China call on States Parties to fully implement the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on universality, which emphasizes that States that remain outside the Convention, would not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to States Parties.

5. National implementation measures

- 5.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China acknowledge that considerable progress has been made in the implementation of Article VII since the adoption of the action plan regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations. While we note with appreciation the increase in the number of States Parties that are in the process of adopting the necessary measures, we also acknowledge the various challenges confronted by developing States Parties, which hinder their efforts to fully implement the provisions of Article VII.
- 5.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through its full implementation, and in this context also encouraged all States Parties that have not yet done so to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention.
- 5.3 The NAM CWC States Parties and China also consider that progress towards national implementation measures under Article VII by the States Parties concerned demonstrates their commitment to the Convention and shows a willingness and seriousness on their part to fully implement the action plan and to follow up decisions.
- 5.4 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that the Technical Secretariat should continue its constructive engagement, including the provision of all possible assistance to the States Parties in the process of the implementation of the action plan.
- 5.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stressed that the provision of all possible assistance and technical support to the States Parties, at their request, is the best way to effectively realise the objectives of the action plan, taking into account the

distinctive character of the States Parties' legislative processes in the context of the implementation of Article VII.

- 5.6 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that the Technical Secretariat should continue making efforts to assist the States Parties to overcome, amongst others, the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by them in the implementation of the action plan.
- 5.7 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirmed the importance of the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of the Convention, including the national implementation measures, for the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention. In this regard, it underlines that the national implementation also necessitates that the States Parties shall take measures to ensure free trade in chemicals, as well as international cooperation and exchange of scientific and technical information in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

6. Assistance and protection against chemical weapons

- 6.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the importance of Article X of the Convention, and of the activities of the OPCW to maintain and develop a state of readiness to provide timely, adequate, and effective assistance to the States Parties in the event of use or threat of use of chemical weapons against them.
- 6.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the important undertaking of the States Parties to facilitate, and their right to participate, in the fullest possible exchange of equipment, material and scientific and technological information concerning means of protection against chemical weapons. We stress the importance of the role of the OPCW in assisting States Parties, concerning the needs faced by the victims of chemical weapons.
- 6.3 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 on a regular basis, to ensure the ability of the Technical Secretariat to respond positively to the increasing demand of States Parties for assistance, particularly to the victims of chemical weapons.
- 6.4 The NAM CWC States Parties and China call upon those States Parties that are in a position to do so to render assistance to other States Parties, in its diversified forms and manners, both through the Technical Secretariat and bilaterally.
- 6.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China pay due respect to all chemical weapons victims and their families and reiterate their firm conviction that international support for providing special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need requiring the OPCW's close attention.
- 6.6 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) on this matter, reiterate their call upon the Technical Secretariat to

move expeditiously to establish and start up the Network and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its established voluntary trust fund of the Network.

7. Full implementation of Article XI

- 7.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that full implementation of Article XI is essential for the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention.
- 7.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China, given that each and every article of the Convention bears the same value and significance, stress the importance of compliance with Article XI for the implementation of the Convention in its entirety.
- 7.3 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the 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.
- 7.4 We are of the view that the decision taken by the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth 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. We request the continuation of the facilitation process in order to implement that decision, and to consider new proposals submitted by delegations in order to take additional necessary measures to ensure full implementation of Article XI.
- 7.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their firm conviction that a plan of action is the best tool to ensure the full implementation of Article XI as a fundamental pillar of the Convention.
- 7.6 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm their commitment to the full implementation of Article XI, especially in the light of scientific and technological developments in the field of chemistry which increase the potential for cooperation amongst States Parties and render such activities critical for strengthening the Convention. We are convinced that those States Parties that are the most advanced in this field should adopt positive steps aimed at promoting international cooperation and transfer of technology, on an equal and a non-discriminatory basis, particularly with countries less advanced in this field, thus promoting the basic objectives of this Convention.
- 7.7 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that States Parties shall not maintain among themselves any restrictions, including those in international agreements, incompatible with the obligations undertaken under the Convention, which would restrict or impede trade and the development and promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, and other peaceful purposes.
- 7.8 The NAM CWC States Parties and China call upon States Parties not to use the Convention as grounds for applying any measures other than those provided for, or permitted, under the Convention, nor any other international agreement for pursuing an objective inconsistent with the Convention.

- 7.9 The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall that, according to Article XI of the Convention, the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering either the economic or technological development of States Parties or international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the 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 the Convention.
- 7.10 We strongly believe that 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. In this context, we call upon the developed countries to fulfil 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, which affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among States Parties.
- 7.11 The NAM CWC States Parties and China uphold the right of the States Parties, stated in Article XI of the Convention, to conduct research with, to develop, produce, acquire, retain, transfer, and use chemicals, as well as the right to participate in the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.
- 7.12 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that the international cooperation programmes 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.
- 7.13 The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with concern the increasing gap between the developed and the developing countries in the field of chemistry. We call upon States Parties, especially developed countries, to increase their scientific and technological cooperation with developing countries in the peaceful uses of chemistry on a non-discriminatory basis. Such cooperation should include, inter alia, the transfer and exchange of information, training of personnel, and transfer of materials and equipment on a systematic and long-term basis.
- 7.14 The NAM CWC States Parties and China call for a steady increase, on an annual basis, of funding for the OPCW's international cooperation and assistance programmes through the regular budget in order to meet the ever-increasing demand.
- 7.15 The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the view that any concept or approach related to the implementation of other provisions of the Convention shall not undermine provisions of Article XI.

8. Verification activities under the Convention

- 8.1 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that the verification regime of the OPCW meets the requirements of the Convention and plays an important role for the credibility of the implementation of all provisions of the Convention, as well as

providing a reliable instrument to ensure that States Parties are complying with their obligations under the Convention. We acknowledge that steady progress has been made towards increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the verification system.

- 8.2 The NAM CWC States Parties and China consider that such a verification mechanism, along with States Parties' commitment under the Convention, provides the confidence needed for free trade in chemicals as well as international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including the international exchange of information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing, or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. We reaffirm the importance of assuring that the verification provisions of the Convention continue being implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of the States Parties.
- 8.3 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that, in conducting verification activities, the Technical Secretariat shall avoid undue intrusion into the chemical activities of States Parties for purposes not prohibited under the Convention and, in particular, shall abide by the provisions set forth in the Annex on the Protection of Confidential Information.
- 8.4 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that declarations provided by States Parties are the cornerstone of the verification regime of the Convention and the only source of information for verification of chemical activities of the States Parties, as set forth in the Convention.
- 8.5 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the verification regime under Article VI must correspond to the hierarchy of risks inherent in the respective category of chemicals, and we underscore the need to uphold the principle that establishes that facilities posing most risk to the object and purpose of the Convention retain the central attention of the verification measures.
- 8.6 The NAM CWC States Parties and China note the results of the analysis of the performance of the S/962/2011 OCPF site-selection methodology in 2012 and encourage the Technical Secretariat to use the data and knowledge so acquired to develop a more broad-based targeting of relevant sites. We request the Technical Secretariat to also engage States Parties in demonstrating the site selection random processes and procedures in an effort to increase transparency and confidence building.
- 8.7 The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with satisfaction that no case of non-compliance has been reported up to now, and that no challenge inspections or investigations of alleged use have been requested.
- 8.8 The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that a challenge inspection is an instrument to be used as a last resort and under exceptional circumstances. We are of the view that the consultation and clarification procedure is an integral part of Article IX, which shall precede any request for a challenge inspection. Any abuse of this provision would jeopardise the trust among States Parties and would be contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.

- 8.9 The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the view that in line with paragraph 3.3 of the report of the Executive Council at its Seventieth Session and statement of the Director-General, in case the provisions of paragraph 27 of Part XI of the Verification Annex to the Chemical Weapons Convention or any other document related thereto and concluded between the OPCW and the United Nations are invoked, the Director-General will promptly inform the Council and all States Parties of the request and of the actions that the Technical Secretariat is undertaking to respond to the request at a meeting of the Council that will be convened.
- 8.10 The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the need for the Executive Council to urgently develop recommendations for the resolution of the still outstanding issues pertaining to the Convention's verification regime, including those regarding challenge inspections, and to submit draft decisions to the Conference as early as possible.

Annex: List of States Parties to the Convention that are Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement

Annex

**LIST OF STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION THAT ARE MEMBER
STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT**

Afghanistan	Ghana	Panama
Algeria	Grenada	Papua New Guinea
Antigua and Barbuda	Guatemala	Peru
Azerbaijan	Guinea	Philippines
Bahamas	Guinea Bissau	Qatar
Bahrain	Guyana	Rwanda
Bangladesh	Haiti	Saint Lucia
Barbados	Honduras	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Belarus	India	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Belize	Indonesia	Sao Tome and Principe
Benin	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Saudi Arabia
Bhutan	Iraq	Senegal
Bolivia	Jamaica	Seychelles
Botswana	Jordan	Sierra Leone
Brunei Darussalam	Kenya	Singapore
Burkina Faso	Kuwait	South Africa
Burundi	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Sri Lanka
Cambodia	Lebanon	Sudan
Cameroon	Lesotho	Suriname
Cape Verde	Liberia	Swaziland
Central African Republic	Libya	Tanzania
Chad	Madagascar	Thailand
Chile	Malawi	Timor-Leste
Colombia	Malaysia	Togo
Comoros	Maldives	Trinidad and Tobago
Congo	Mali	Tunisia
Côte D'Ivoire	Mauritania	Turkmenistan
Cuba	Mauritius	Uganda
Democratic Republic of the Congo	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
Djibouti	Morocco	Uzbekistan
Dominica	Mozambique	Vanuatu
Dominican Republic	Namibia	Venezuela
Ecuador	Nepal	Viet Nam
Equatorial Guinea	Nicaragua	Yemen
Eritrea	Niger	Zambia
Ethiopia	Nigeria	Zimbabwe
Fiji	Oman	
Gabon	Pakistan	
Gambia		