



**STATEMENT BY
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THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE 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 SEVENTY-EIGHT SESSION OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
THE HAGUE, 17-20 March 2015**

Mr. Chairperson,

On behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter NAM CWC States Parties) and China, I would like to welcome you back, H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Marcelo Moerzinger of Uruguay, as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this session of the Council to a successful conclusion.

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

Noting with serious concern that the final extended deadline (29 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.

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 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 have been adopted by the Policy-Making Organs.

Mr. Chairperson,

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Convention and in this context hereby strongly call on the other States not Party to the Convention to accede to it without further delay and precondition. 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.

Recalling the decisions of the Executive Council at its meetings with respect to the elimination and destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and welcoming the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the relevant Executive Council decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the significant progress achieved in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons, in particular decisions taken by Executive Council at its Forty-Third meeting with regard to destruction of Syrian chemical weapons production facilities.

Having received the Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria on which a number of delegations expressed diverse views and mindful of the decision adopted at the 48th meeting of the Executive Council by a voting procedure, we recall the importance of the OPCW traditional practice of consensus.

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.

Mr. Chairperson,

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 continue to call for the development and adoption of an action plan.

We look forward to the continuation of Article XI discussions with a view to achieving concrete outcomes aimed at further enhancing the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, informed by concrete proposals from States Parties including all possible resources, existing documents presented by States Parties and Technical Secretariat such as the elements of the action plan of 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 as well as the facilitator's Informal Document presented to the States Parties in 2014.

In this context, we also underline that the following elements should be taken into consideration by the Policy-Making Organs of the Organisation, inter alia:

- (a) Allocation of adequate financial and human resources in annual Program and Budget of the Organization 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.

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 also 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.

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 for assistance.

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 and the Director-General who contributed to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons. We further reiterate our call upon to the Secretariat to activate the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons fully and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its Voluntary Trust Fund.

We encourage the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to consider using part of the Trust Fund to also assist affected civilians in cases of terrorist attacks by chemical weapons or toxic chemicals.

We further appreciate the contribution by Dr. Robert Mathews from his portion of the 2014 OPCW The Hague Award to the OPCW Voluntary Trust Fund for the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the excellent work of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), H.E. Dr. (Mrs) N. N. Akanbi OON, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. While the NAM CWC States Parties and China acknowledge the contribution of the OPCW to global anti-terrorism efforts through full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, bearing in mind that the OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China takes this opportunity to congratulate the excellent stewardship of H.E. Ambassador Álvaro Marcelo Moerzinger of Uruguay the out-going Chairperson of the Executive Council. Your professional and diplomatic skills contributed greatly to the successful work achieved during your tenure as Chairperson and for that we commend you.

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. 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 request an update on the progress-made.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the commemorative event of the centenary of the first large-scale use of chemical weapons to be held on 21 April 2015 in Ieper, Belgium. It is of great importance for us, as States Parties to the CWC, to recall the tragic and horrific history of chemical warfare and to honor the memory of all victims of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventy-Eight Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.