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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN****STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF 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  
EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

At the outset I would like to welcome you back to the chair, and to 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.

In this regard, we welcome the anticipated completion of destruction of the remaining chemical weapons in four chemical weapons destruction facilities in the Russian Federation by the end of 2015.

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 adopted by the Policy-Making Organs.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Convention and in this context hereby strongly call on remaining States not Party to the



Convention to accede to it without further delay and precondition. In this regard, we welcome Myanmar as the newest State Party to the Convention and Angola's deposition of its instrument of accession to the Convention. 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 the 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 and in the destruction of the chemical weapons production facilities.

We take note of the work done so far by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), and look forward to receiving its final report. We expect the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent.

We also take note of the Note by Director General (S/1302/2015, dated 11 August 2015), which includes the United Nations Security Council resolution 2235 (2015) regarding the establishment of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM). We expect that JIM will conduct its mission in a professional, objective and impartial manner and we look forward to close collaboration between the United Nations and OPCW.

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 speed up efforts in this regard.

We welcome the appointment of Mr Shoaib Sarvar from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan as new facilitator on this issue.

We are convinced that the adoption of an action plan for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is paramount and cannot be excluded. However, for the sake of reaching consensus, the NAM CWC States Parties and China developed a working paper containing a broad range of proposals for consideration by the States Parties. We look forward to constructive discussion on the proposals submitted by all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat.

In this regard we welcome the initiative made by the Technical Secretariat to have consultations with the NAM CWC States Parties and China and other States Parties to the Convention. We believe that implementing Article XI requires continuous collaboration between the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties.

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 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; and

- (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, we welcome the progress made so far and encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to the States Parties. We further encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue developing appropriate and tailored solutions, taking into account 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 welcome the activation and activities of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage the States Parties to contribute to its Voluntary Trust Fund.

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.

On the Draft Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2016, we wish to underline the importance in achieving balance among the different items of the OPCW budget. While highlighting the importance of international cooperation and assistance and the obligations of the States Parties in this regard, we are of the view that the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW also plays an important role in the effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including through provision of required financial and human resources.

With regard to the future priorities of the Organisation, the NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the main focus of the Organisation should remain the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons. We will take an active part in the discussions to be held in this regard from a constructive position, with a strong belief that all pillars of the

Convention would be treated in a balanced manner, including, the ones related to international cooperation, assistance and protection issues, amongst others.

We strongly support dealing comprehensively and holistically with issues related to the future of the Organisation and firmly believe that the discussions need to be brought within the parameters of the policy-making organs (PMOs) guided and driven by States Parties inside the OPCW with a view to produce binding decisions to be adopted. We further believe that the discussions should take place under a mechanism such as a Working Group with a definite time frame, covering all the various aspects of the Convention. This working group should consult all States Parties to the Convention and formulate a document regarding the future priorities of the OPCW before the end of 2017, to be considered and adopted by the Fourth Review Conference in 2018.

We believe that the process of negotiation in this regard has to be transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory and must reflect the interests and concerns of all States Parties. We stress that States Parties should take the lead in this process and urge that any decision in this regard should be taken by the policy-making organs of the Organisation.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the work of the Chairperson of the Open- Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG), and welcome the appointment of H.E Dr Joe Tony Aidoo, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Ghana and look forward to continued constructive discussions in the OEWG of which outcome will contribute to the global efforts towards curbing chemical related threats and especially those of chemical weapons.

In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China are deeply concerned about recent reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemical by non-State actors, and call upon the Technical Secretariat to investigate all reports on the use of chemical weapons and to keep the States Parties informed about steps taken.

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.

With regard to issues of education and outreach, the NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the ongoing and planned activities on this topic and express support to the activities developed by the Technical Secretariat in this regard. We also take note of the Director-General's Note and the draft decision on the establishment of an Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and look forward to participating in the discussions on this issue. With regard to the draft decision we emphasise equal geographical distribution of the members of the board.

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.

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

Thank you.