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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
DELIVERED BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

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.

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.

We express our thanks to the Director-General, H. E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his informative and comprehensive report delivered in this session and appreciate his continuous efforts and 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.

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.

The existence 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 and all norms of



international law. We also affirm that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, is a fundamental pillar of the Convention.

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 adopted by 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 adopted by the policy-making organs.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Convention. In this regard, we hereby strongly call on remaining 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 NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the complete destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons and the significant progress made in the destruction of its chemical weapons production facilities, and also welcome the continued cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic regarding the implementation of the relevant Executive Council decisions towards the elimination of its chemical weapons. In this regard, we recall the decisions of the Executive Council at its meetings with respect to the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons and we look forward to the destruction of the remaining hangar.

We received the Director-General's report on the work of the DAT and we encourage both the Syrian Arab Republic and the OPCW to continue cooperation in fulfilling the mandate of the DAT in line with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

On the work done so far by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), as well as its reports, we look forward to receiving the final report of FFM (BRAVO) and expect that the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent.

Furthermore, the NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the transmission of the first JIM report annexed to a letter from the head of the JIM (16 February) to the Director-General of the OPCW. We expect that the JIM will conduct its mission in a professional, objective and impartial manner and we look forward to close collaboration between the United Nations and the 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 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. 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. We also appreciate the efforts by the Technical Secretariat for preparing the consolidated text “concrete proposals for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI” based on proposals received from various States Parties and the Technical Secretariat.

We also underline that the following elements should be taken into consideration by the policy-making organs of the Organisation, inter alia:

1. 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;
2. Adoption of necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference regarding Article XI; and
3. 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 existing trust among the States Parties.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that a systematic approach to the full and effective implementation of Article XI is a necessity. In this regard, we propose a review and evaluation workshop to be held in May 2016 with a view to identifying gaps and pave the way for an integrated, systematic and long-term approach to the effective implementation of Article XI.

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.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage the States Parties with the capacity to facilitate and make materials and equipment-related assistance available to other States Parties and to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, without undue restrictions. 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, welcome the update on the progress made by the Technical Secretariat.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China reemphasise that the employment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat is to be fair and transparent and stress that in accordance with Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention, the paramount consideration in the employment of the staff shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity. It is imperative to ensure that the Technical Secretariat observe an equitable geographical and balanced gender representation, particularly at the professional level.

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 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 PMOs guided and driven by States Parties inside the OPCW with a view to produce binding decisions to be adopted.

We welcome the decision made by the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on the establishment of a Working Group to discuss and formulate a document on the future priorities of the OPCW to be adopted at the Fourth Review Conference. In this regard, we would like to nominate H.E. Mr Vusi Bruce Koloane, Permanent Representative of South Africa as Chairperson to the Open-Ended Working Group on Future Priorities.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the work of the Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We take note of the interim report presented by the chairperson of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors aimed to formulate concrete recommendations on legal and technical matters within the framework of the Convention. We also take note of the fact that there are different views regarding the legal and technical matters.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China are deeply concerned about recent reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals in terrorist attacks 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.

In this regard, we express our deep concern about the alleged use of chemical weapons against civilian and military forces in the Kurdistan region of Iraq by terrorist groups.

We welcome the decision made by the Executive Council in its Fifty-First Meeting on the destruction of Libya's remaining chemical weapons stockpiles (EC-M-51/DEC.1, dated 24 February 2016) taking into account the existing threat of the remaining chemical weapons stocks falling into the hands of non-State actors. Therefore, we urge for immediate actions to

ensure the complete destruction of Libya's remaining chemical weapons in view of the looming terrorist threat.

In conclusion, we recognise the importance of education and outreach programmes in achieving the main objectives of the Convention, in this regard we welcome the establishment of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach and the appointment of its members by the Director-General and we look forward to the Board's recommendations on this very important issue.

Thank you.

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