



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-Second Session
12 – 15 and 20 July 2016

EC-82/NAT.24
12 July 2016
ENGLISH only

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-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson, distinguished participants,

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 congratulate you, Ambassador Odette Melono of Cameroon as Chairperson of the Executive Council and express my confidence in your able leadership to steer the sessions of the Council during your chairmanship to successful conclusions.

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 also welcome the continued cooperation existing between the Syrian Government and the OPCW and the Director-General in implementing the Executive Council's decision (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016) in addressing the issues identified by the Secretariat in the report on the work of the DAT, regarding the initial Syrian declaration and related submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic (EC-81/HP/DG.1, dated 22 February 2016). In this regard, three rounds of consultations with senior officials have been convened, two at the OPCW Headquarters in The Hague, and one in Damascus.

We acknowledge the continued cooperation existing between the Syrian Arab Republic and the OPCW and the progress which they have achieved on all issues. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the announcement that the Syrian Arab Republic has provided the Technical Secretariat, as an outcome of their discussions, a note verbale, dated 27 June 2016, with a letter from the National Authority, attaching additional information and declarations, which will be used to amend and supplement the initial Syrian declaration, regarding all pending issues aimed at resolving them.

We received the recent 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 expect that the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent to continue studying all available information relating to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Furthermore, the NAM CWC States Parties and China take note of the work done so far by JIM and look forward to receiving its second report. 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 believe that a systematic approach to the full and effective implementation of Article XI is a necessity, in this regard we appreciate the efforts by the Technical Secretariat and States Parties in organising a review and evaluation workshop with a view to identifying gaps and obstacles for paving the way for an integrated, systematic and long-term approach to the effective implementation of Article XI.

The participation of experts from National Authorities is imperative to the success of this workshop. Therefore, we propose the workshop to be held immediately before the 18th Annual Meeting of National Authorities in November 2016. In this regard we encourage the Technical Secretariat to discuss with the States Parties the modalities of this workshop,

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 the 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 existing trust among the States Parties.

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 Network 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, with no 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 producing 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 and we look forward to its establishment. We reiterate the importance of this Working Group and encourage its close cooperation with all regional groups.

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 latest report presented by the chairperson of the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors referring to what the OPCW can do within the framework of the Convention to strengthen its capabilities in the field of prevention and responses. We also take note of the diverse views on this issue and encourage further consultations.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China are deeply concerned about reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals in terrorist attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq

and call upon the Technical Secretariat to investigate all reports on the use of chemical weapons and keep the States Parties informed about steps taken.

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 falling into the hands of non-State actors we urge for immediate actions by the OPCW in close cooperation with the Government of Libya to remove remaining chemical weapons stockpiles as soon as possible.

The NAM CWC States Parties and China appreciate the Technical Secretariat's efforts to strengthen cooperation with African States Parties through the Africa Programme.

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 work done by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach. We also welcome all regional meetings held to contribute in formulating recommendations on education and outreach.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---