



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Seventeenth Session
26 – 29 November 2012

C-17/NAT.23
26 November 2012
ENGLISH only

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. M. M. AKHONDZADEH
DEPUTY FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBER STATES OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
AND CHINA AT THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

1. On behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (NAM CWC States Parties) and China, I would like to welcome you, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, to the Chair of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and express our confidence in your able leadership to steer this Conference to a successful conclusion. We also wish to take the opportunity to appreciate Ambassador Paul Arkwright for all his efforts during the Sixteenth Session.
2. The NAM CWC States Parties and China associate themselves with the Final Document of the 16th Summit of Heads of States or Governments of the Non-Aligned Movement held on 26 to 31 August 2012 in Tehran, in which they reaffirm their principled positions on various important issues in relation with the Convention, which stand as follows:
 - Expressing their serious concerns that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons has not been met by certain possessor States Parties and urging them to take every necessary measure with a view to ensuring their compliance with the Convention;
 - Full implementation of the Convention to contribute to international and regional peace and security;
 - Importance of universality of the Convention and accession of all States not parties to the Convention;
 - Encouraging all States Parties to engage with the Technical Secretariat of the Organisation on the steps that need to be undertaken for the national implementation of the Convention;
 - Promotion of international cooperation and removal of any discriminatory restrictions in this field that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention;



- Stressing the importance of the implementation of Article X of the Convention and welcoming the establishment of the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons;
3. The NAM CWC States Parties and China, committed to the full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, wish to outline their position on the agenda of the Conference.
 4. 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 preambular paragraph of the Convention.
 5. 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. Based on the Director-General's reports at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council as well as the destruction plans submitted by the concerned States Parties, we remain seriously concerned that those States Parties have not complied with this obligation of the Convention, thus endangering its credibility and integrity. We therefore strongly call upon those concerned States Parties to strictly comply with this fundamental pillar and the relevant decisions approved by the policy-making organs (PMOs), on all categories of chemical weapons, with a view to achieving their complete destruction in the shortest time possible, under verification by the OPCW. We also reaffirm that the destruction and verification of the destruction of all categories of chemical weapons shall continue to be the top priority of the Organisation.
 6. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the progress presentation presented by the delegation of the Republic of Iraq to the Seventieth Session of the Executive Council last September. We consider it as a successful step by the Iraqi Authorities in the context of full implementation of the Convention.
 7. The NAM CWC States Parties and China firmly believe that the contribution of the Convention to the promotion of international and regional peace and security can be enhanced by full adherence to universality of the Convention. We commend the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties for their commitment to promote the universality of the Convention and encourage them to redouble their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date. We call on States Parties to fully implement the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference on universality, which emphasises that States that remain outside the Convention would not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to States Parties. We strongly call upon all States that have so far not joined the Convention to do so without further delay, particularly those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern.
 8. The NAM CWC States Parties and China call for the full and expeditious implementation of decision of the Conference of the States Parties at its Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011) on Article XI. We strongly

encourage the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties to redouble their efforts in this regard and we reiterate our position on the main aspects of the provisions of this Article as follows:

- Taking into account the need of the proper balance of the pillars of Convention;
- Emphasising full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, through developing an action plan,
- Recalling the obligation of the States Parties to implement the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of other States Parties;
- The necessity of removal of and avoiding the imposition of any restrictions, in particular unilateral sanctions against other States Parties on transferring and exchanging information, technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field, that are contrary to the Convention;
- Strengthening the Technical Secretariat through provisions of required financial and human resources, especially for the work of International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA);
- Any concept or approach related to the implementation of other provisions of the Convention shall not undermine provisions of Article XI.

While taking note of the Technical Secretariat's report on the progress made in the implementation of this decision since it was adopted at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference, NAM CWC States Parties and China call for expeditious implementation of this decision by the Secretariat and States Parties.

9. 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) reiterate their call upon the Technical Secretariat to move expeditiously to establish the International Support Network for the Victims of Chemical Weapons and encourage the States Parties to contribute to the voluntary trust fund of the Network.
10. In the context of the implementation of Article VII, we note the efforts of the Facilitator, Mr Rami Adwan from Lebanon. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue to provide meaningful assistance and technical support to 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.
11. While we 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, we reaffirm that its primary objective is the total destruction of chemical weapons. The Second Review Conference recalled the independent and autonomous nature of the OPCW. Therefore we continue to hold the firm view that the obligation to implement the Convention has its origin in the Convention itself and not in any extraneous resolution or law. We also believe that it is important that this principle should be reinforced when addressing any related issue.

12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the work of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), H.E. Prof. Ruthie C. Rono, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Kenya, and express their hope that the discussions held in the three informal consultations this year will contribute to the global efforts towards curbing chemical related threats and especially those of chemical weapons.
13. 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.
14. The NAM CWC States parties and China stress the importance of the upcoming Third Review Conference in the 2013, while commending the work of the Bureau of the OEWG, Technical Secretariat and contribution of all States Parties, we look forward to fruitful deliberations on the issues that have been identified and any other issues that may be identified by delegations.
15. While welcoming the agreement of the States Parties on the Programme and Budget of the Organisation for the year 2013, we are of the view that provision of required financial and human resources for implementation of Article XI and the work of ICA is essential in achieving objectives of the Convention. We also firmly believe that any plan related to the structure of the Organisation is a matter of policy and should be thoroughly discussed by the PMOs rather than budget consultation meetings.

In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you.

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