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REPUBLIC OF CUBA

**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 THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr. Chairman,

1. On behalf of the Members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) who are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) and China (the NAM CWC States Parties and China), I would like to welcome you as Chairman of this Conference of the States Parties to the Convention. We are confident that your knowledge, skills and experience will enable you to steer our work to a successful conclusion and I assure you of the full support of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.
2. I also would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Abuelgasim Abdelwahid Shiekh Idris, Ambassador of Sudan, for his excellent and skilful chairmanship of the Twelfth Conference of the States Parties. I also wish to congratulate the newly-elected Bureau members of this Thirteenth Session of the Conference.
3. We would also like to express our gratitude to the Director-General, Mr Rogelio Pfirter for the presentation of his opening Statement, which shall facilitate the deliberations of this important Conference.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Second Review Conference held in April 2008 was a unique opportunity for the States Parties to review again the operation of the Convention and to make recommendations to the States Parties in addition to providing guidelines to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW in its future activities. We attach importance to the efforts made during the Second Review Conference and firmly believe that its outcome shall contribute to the full and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of the Convention.
5. Within this perspective, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their long-standing principled position for the achievement of complete disarmament, and for international peace and security including those expressed in the Final Document



of the Fifteenth Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in Tehran, the Islamic Republic of Iran, which took place in July this year.

6. Accordingly, the NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to outline their position on the important issues before the OPCW, with particular emphasis on the Agenda of this Thirteenth Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

7. The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to pose a serious threat to international peace and security. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are committed to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention and call for the prohibition and total elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction, in line with the first preambular paragraph of the Convention.
8. We stress that the total destruction of chemical weapons is one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention. In this regard, compliance with the deadlines, as set forth in the Convention, constitutes an integral part of the undertakings by Possessor States to destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles.
9. We note the significant advances made by some possessor States Parties in the destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles and wish to congratulate A State Party on having completed the destruction of its Category 1 chemical weapons stockpiles.
10. With more than 58% of the amount of declared chemical weapons still to be destroyed, we remain seriously concerned about the current pace of destruction of chemical weapons in light of the fast approaching final deadline, on 29 April 2012, as extended by the Eleventh Conference of the States Parties. Consequently, verification of the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles continues to be one of the main activities of the Technical Secretariat.
11. We strongly believe that it is imperative for the major possessor States Parties to strictly comply with the final deadline for the destruction of their chemical weapons, to uphold the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with satisfaction the progress made towards achieving universality of the Convention. In this context, we wish to extend a warm welcome to two NAM Members State, the Congo and Guinea Bissau, who acceded to the Convention during 2008, bringing the number of States Parties to 184, out of which 109 are Members of the NAM. We also congratulate Lebanon, another Member State to the NAM, for having deposited its instrument of accession to the Convention on 20 November last.
13. We firmly believe that the effective contribution of the Convention to international and regional peace and security can be enhanced through the universality of the Convention.

14. The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to express their appreciation to the States Parties which have contributed to universality-related activities. We also commend the Technical Secretariat for its efforts to promote the universality of the Convention, which is fundamental to the attainment of its object and purpose. We urge all States that have still not joined the Convention to do so without further delay, particularly those whose non-adherence has given rise to serious concern. In this regard, we request the Secretariat, and those States Parties in a position to do so, to intensify their efforts with a view to achieving full universality at the earliest possible date.

Mr. Chairman,

15. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall the importance of the provisions of Article XI of the Convention, underlined by the Second Review Conference, and emphasize that the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention.
16. We wish to reiterate the fundamental importance of international cooperation in the exchange of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technological information in the field of chemical activities, aimed at facilitating economic and social development.
17. We stress the obligation of States Parties to implement the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
18. The NAM CWC States Parties and China strongly believe that it is imperative to ensure the removal of and to avoid the imposition of any restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention, which prevent access to materials, equipment and technology required by developing States Parties for their continued and peaceful development. Those restrictions, which are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention, affect the long-term viability of the Convention and have an effect on the trust that exists.
19. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their call for the fulfilment of the solemn undertakings given at the time of the adoption of the Convention for removal of unwarranted restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes. In this context, we call upon the developed countries to commit to the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and removal of those discriminatory restrictions. We emphasize once again that the objectives of the Convention can be best achieved through multilaterally negotiated, universal, comprehensive and non-discriminatory agreements by all States Parties.
20. We recall the relevant decisions of the Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Conferences of the States Parties on the full implementation of Article XI, as well as the recommendations made by the Second Review Conference of the Convention on this fundamental provision. We reiterate our constructive approach to the ongoing consultations aimed at developing concrete measures within an agreed framework to ensure the full implementation of Article XI.

21. The NAM CWC States Parties and China acknowledge the efforts of the facilitator on Article XI. We welcome a proposal to hold a workshop to explore ways and means for the full implementation of Article XI. We are of the view that such a workshop shall contribute to the ongoing consultations on the full implementation of Article XI. To this end, the NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage all States Parties to continue to engage in substantive discussions to elaborate all aspects of the proposal, with a view to its realization in 2009. In doing so, we are confident that the views and proposals of all States Parties shall be taken into account.
22. We continue to be of the firm belief that a plan of action is essential for the full implementation of Article XI. The experience gained by the Organization in the implementation of other provisions of the Convention through action plans, namely article VII and universality, shall also guide us in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

23. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that the implementation of Article X of the Convention on assistance and protection against chemical weapons makes a significant contribution in countering the threats of the use of chemical weapons. We stress the importance of achieving and maintaining a high level of readiness of the OPCW to provide timely, adequate and effective assistance and protection to its States Parties in situations of use or threat of use of chemical weapons against them.
24. While paying due respect to the chemical weapons victims and their families, the NAM CWC States Parties and China declare their firm conviction that international support to provide special care and assistance to all victims suffering the effects of exposure to chemical weapons is an urgent humanitarian need and that the States Parties to the Convention, as well as the OPCW, should pay urgent attention to meeting these needs. In this regard we welcome the start of discussions on the proposal for the establishment of an international support network for the victims of chemical weapons and look forward to actively participating in the ongoing consultations on this matter.
25. The NAM CWC States Parties and China believe that the contribution to global antiterrorism efforts in the context of the Convention can be best achieved by striving for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention. In this regard, the promotion of universality of the Convention, as well as the full implementation of Article X, remain of particular importance. We also highlight the importance of international cooperation to prevent terrorists from acquiring and/or using chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

26. The Verification Regime of the OPCW plays an important role in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the start of the deliberations regarding some of the unresolved issues related to industry verification and express their support for the newly-appointed facilitators in their tasks, which will guide us in further considering this very important issue. The NAM CWC States Parties and China highlight the importance of an early appointment of facilitators on other industry cluster issues, namely the OCPF

site-selection methodology and the frequency of inspections, as expressed in the Report of the Fifty-Fourth Session of the Executive Council (EC-54/5).

27. As we all recall, the Second Review Conference of the Convention concluded that the verification regime of the Convention has been effective in meeting the requirements of the Convention, and, that issues pertaining to the verification regime shall be dealt with in a manner consistent with the Convention. In this regard, it is of utmost importance that proposals made by the Technical Secretariat be strictly in accordance with the agreed decisions of the Policy-Making Organs, including the final document of the Second Review Conference, which we adopted by consensus.
28. In relation to the declaration and inspection of OCPF plant sites, the NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to note paragraph 9.65 of the report of the Second Review Conference and recall again the desirability of directing inspections towards facilities of greater relevance to the object and purpose of the Convention, as well as the request to the Director-General to examine options for achieving this objective without imposition of any additional declaration obligations and strictly in accordance with Part IX of the Verification Annex of the Convention, and to submit his findings to the Council for its consideration.
29. Furthermore, as it was reiterated in paragraph 9.66 of the Report of the Second Review Conference, any changes in the frequency of OCPF inspections, if required, should take into account any refinements to the OCPF inspection regime or improvements in site-selection methodology, and should be based on a thorough discussion and a decision of the Policy-Making Organs. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the opinion that any variation in the number of inspections should be decided on by the Policy-Making Organs based on the outcome of substantive consultations in the framework of the relevant industry cluster discussions.

Mr. Chairman,

30. This Thirteenth Session will be undertaking a review of the Plan of Action on the implementation of Article VII adopted at the Eighth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. The significant progress achieved through a constructive and cooperative approach since the adoption of the Plan of Action and as well as the adoption of DEC.16 at the Tenth Conference, bears testimony to its success. We acknowledge the efforts of the facilitator, as well as his positive approach in conducting consultations.
31. In this context we encourage all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue this approach and to devise appropriate solutions to overcome the practical difficulties and resource constraints encountered by individual States Parties in carrying out their national implementation measures.
32. We are convinced that through the provision of meaningful assistance and technical support to States Parties, at their request, the objectives of the implementation of Article VII can be more effectively realized.
33. On the issue of the OPCW Program for Africa, the NAM CWC States Parties and China support the endeavours of the African Group in this regard and encourage the

Technical Secretariat to provide all necessary support to States Parties in order to implement this Program.

Mr. Chairman,

34. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the firm belief that all major OPCW events should take place in consultation with the States Parties and should contribute to the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention in a balanced manner, and in full conformity with the mandate of the Organization.
35. It is the clear wish of the NAM CWC States Parties and China to renew the assurances of our fullest cooperation to you and to all Member States in ensuring the success of this Conference. We would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you.

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