



**STATEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERS OF THE  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) THAT ARE STATES PARTIES TO THE  
CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION AND CHINA AT THE TWENTY-EIGHTH  
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
DELIVERED BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN IN ITS CAPACITY AS  
THE CHAIR OF THE NAM  
November 27 – December 1, 2023**

**Mr. Chairperson, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

1. I have the honor 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 (NAM CWC States Parties and China).
2. At the outset, we would like to welcome, H.E. Suljuk Mustansar Tarar, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, as the Chairperson of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference of States Parties and express our confidence in his leadership to steer this Conference to a successful conclusion.
3. We also wish to take this opportunity to appreciate the Chairperson of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the State Parties, H.E. Vusimuzi Madonsela, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa. We wish to thank the Director-General, H.E. Fernando Arias for his comprehensive report. The Group conveys its appreciation to the OPCW staff for their dedication to the implementation of the Organization's noble objectives.
4. The NAM CWC States Parties and China continue to underscore the importance for the OPCW and all States Parties to continue to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention including the economic and technological development of the States Parties, especially in the fields of International Cooperation and Assistance.
5. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recall the creation of a Coordination Mechanism to revitalize existing facilitations, and regret that no meeting of this Mechanism was convened since then. We reiterate our call on the Chairperson of the Executive Council, in his role as head of this Mechanism, to redouble efforts

aimed at advancing the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the CWC in a balanced and non-discriminatory manner and to explore ways and means for the revitalization of all facilitations, in line with the position paper of the NAM CWC States Parties and China dated 4 October 2019.

6. The NAM CWC States Parties and China attach great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and in line with the action plan for universality of the Convention (EC-M-23/DEC.3, 2003) and relevant decisions adopted by the OPCW's PMOs, strongly urge the non-parties to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without any further delay or preconditions, and emphasize that those non-parties should not derive any benefit therefrom.
7. 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 this regard, we underline that the existence and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continue to pose a significant threat to international peace and security. We further underline that full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention contributes to regional and international peace and security.
8. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals as weapons anywhere by anyone and under any circumstances is reprehensible and completely contrary to the provisions of the Convention and international law. We also reaffirm that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.
9. As we enter the second month of the Israeli brutal occupation's aggression and the indiscriminate, inhumane bombardment of Gaza Strip and Palestinian civilians, we are gravely concerned by the reports that the Israeli occupation's forces have used various internationally prohibited weapons including chemical weapons in Gaza and in Lebanon. Israel's use of white phosphorus in its attacks of aggressions against the civilians in Gaza and Lebanon is causing a serious risk of long-term health hazard. In this context, we are extremely alarmed that the Israeli occupation forces' plan to use prohibited chemicals, including nerve agents and chemical weapons in its ongoing ground invasion of besieged Gaza. Furthermore, there are serious concerns that the Israeli occupying forces and illegal settlers are using incendiary materials and toxic gases, including tear gas, against demonstrators and Palestinian civilians and their properties. As such, we are gravely concerned that the Israeli occupation's conduct, as a signatory, is defeating the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
10. We welcome the request of the state of Palestine that was submitted to the technical Secretariat to monitor and investigate the possible use and threat of use of chemical weapons by the Israeli occupation. The Israeli occupation's actions are clearly

prohibited under international law and require vigilance by international organizations, including the OPCW. The use of chemical weapons anywhere by anyone under any circumstances is unacceptable. Accordingly, we request the Technical Secretariat to take on its duty and monitor the situation in Palestine including any threats or actual use by Israel, of toxic chemicals. We request that the OPCW investigate any possible use of chemical weapons in Israel's aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza. Furthermore, the Technical Secretariat should remain prepared to take appropriate measures in accordance with the Convention if deemed necessary, and to undertake a prompt and effective response to investigate and react to such incidents in the future.

11. The NAM CWC States Parties and China condemn the use of chemical weapons by non-state actors. Deeply concerned about the use or threat of use by such actors, we request the Technical Secretariat to investigate, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, all reports on the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by such actors and keep the States Parties informed accordingly.
12. The NAM CWC States Parties and China express their deep concern regarding any attempt to accuse States Parties of using chemical weapons and non-compliance with the Convention on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations made by media reports or any other open sources, including non-governmental entities. This trend can cause a dangerous precedent in the future work of the OPCW and must be avoided.
13. In this regard, the NAM CWC States Parties and China underline that the OPCW is the competent international organization to verify the compliance of States Parties with the provisions of the Convention, whose authority and credibility must be upheld at all times.
14. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress that the destruction of old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons should be completed in the shortest possible time in accordance with the Convention and relevant decisions adopted by the PMOs.
15. The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with concern that the overall progress of the destruction of chemical weapons abandoned by Japan on the territory of China was less than expected. We urge the Abandoning State Party to continue to make the fullest possible efforts to complete the destruction of the abandoned chemical weapons as early as possible in accordance with the Council's decision (EC-67/DEC.6) and its annex 3 entitled "Destruction Plan Beyond the Year 2022 for the Chemical Weapons Abandoned by Japan in the People's Republic of China" in a comprehensive, complete and faithful manner, while ensuring the safety of people and protecting the environment. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome that 12 onsite inspections have been successfully conducted on

ACW facilities in China by the OPCW in 2023, and look forward to strengthening supervision by the OPCW on the destruction of ACWs and the implementation of the destruction plan amended by the Council in 2022.

16. Recalling the decisions of the Executive Council with respect to the elimination and destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons, and the destruction of the Syrian chemical weapons production facilities, the NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the substantive efforts made and progress achieved in this regard. We welcome the Director General's reports on the completion of the destruction of all Chemical Weapons and Chemical Weapon Production Facilities, declared by the Syrian Arab Republic. We welcome the resumption of the consultation between the Syrian National Authority and DAT and look forward to further continuation of successful cooperation existing between the OPCW and the Syrian Arab Republic on all issues.
17. We take note of the work done so far by the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and look forward to receiving its reports on its ongoing activities. We expect the approach followed by the FFM teams would be uniform and consistent.
18. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reaffirm that Article XI deals with one of the core objectives of the CWC and is essential for the realization of the object and purpose of the Convention. We attach great importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of this Article in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under this Convention. We also emphasize the need to strengthen and expedite efforts in the economic and technological development of the States Parties.
19. We also underline the importance of the promotion of international cooperation for the benefit of States Parties through the transfer of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes in the field of chemistry and removal of any discriminatory restrictions such as unilateral coercive measures against other States Parties that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention, affect the Convention's long term viability, and have an adverse impact on the existing level of trust among the States Parties.
20. The NAM CWC States Parties and China recognize that the Annual Review and Evaluation Workshop for the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Implementation of Article XI is a useful platform to develop concrete measures and recommendations to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article. In this regard, we request the Article XI Facilitator to report on the ideas that have emerged from workshops and other relevant

activities held during the intersessional period, to be reflected in the report of the PMOs. We also request the Secretariat to provide a comprehensive report on the gaps and challenges on the effective implementation of decision C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011 which is still applicable.

21. We appreciate the efforts made so far by the Article XI Facilitator and encourage the continuation of inclusive outreach and constructive dialogue with all States Parties. We note with appreciation that the Drafting Committee has completed its work to streamline the list of ideas that emerged from the above-mentioned review and evaluation workshops. We suggest to present it to the PMO for its consideration and possible approval.
22. We reiterate that a comprehensive discussion in the PMOs on the implementation of the decision C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011 is the effective way to formulate an OPCW strategy for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. In this regard, we strongly call on all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to take into consideration also the NAM & China proposals (C-12/NAT.1, dated 6 November 2007) on the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, including the Plan of Action.
23. The NAM CWC States Parties and China emphasize the imperative of the PMOs of the OPCW to preserve permanently and allocate substantial financial, technical and human resources in the realization of International Cooperation Activities in States Parties in the developing countries, considering national and regional needs, realities and challenges, including language barriers.
24. The NAM CWC States Parties and China have taken note of the transfer of funds between programmes and within sub-programmes in past years signed since the 4<sup>th</sup> Review Conference. In this regard, we express deep concern that considerable amounts have been transferred out of the International Cooperation and Assistance (ICA) Programme between 2018-2021. The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to re-emphasize that the ICA is one of the core pillars of the CWC, and it is essential that a balanced approach towards allocation of funds to all programmes, including in particular ICA to be pursued by the Technical Secretariat so that the implementation of this programme be sustained.
25. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterates its call on the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to work collectively with a view to achieving the full and effective implementation of the ICA programmes. This would include ensuring that the relevant budgetary requirements are effectively balanced and programmes delivery is promptly executed, in particular for developing countries. This is to avoid or to reduce the need for transfers between major programmes. We also ask for establishing a special fund for ICA activities that could be financed with different sources, including the retention of unspent funds for ICA and possible allocation of resource from cash surplus as applied for other special funds. We look

forward to the full implementation of the above recommendation and remain ready to be engaged in any further consultations on this matter.

26. The NAM CWC State Parties and China welcome the Sixth Phase of the OPCW Programme to strengthen cooperation with Africa and the progress made in the implementation of its previous phase. To guarantee its sustainability and predictability, the NAM CWC States Parties and China support the funding of future phases of this programme under the regular budget of the OPCW.
27. The NAM CWC States Parties and China welcome the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology. We support strengthening of capacity building of the States Parties through scaling up of international cooperation and assistance programs and fostering scientific and academic partnerships in the field of chemical activities for peaceful purposes at the ChemTech Centre. We expect the Centre to continue building expertise of the Technical Secretariat to fulfill its mandate under the Convention, including to further provide technical assistance to State Parties for its full and effective implementation. We urge that the modalities, mandate, operational needs and budgetary allocation of the Centre should be drawn up in full consultation with the States Parties and submitted for approval of States Parties through the PMOs. We also stress the importance of transparency and efficiency in all the work and programs of the Centre.
28. The NAM CWC States Parties and China wish to underscore the importance of obtaining designated laboratories in all regions and encourage the OPCW to continue its capacity building efforts towards this objective.
29. The NAM CWC States Parties and China stress the need for all States Parties to fully implement their obligations under Article X. We urge 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.
30. The NAM CWC States Parties and China pay profound respect to victims of chemical weapons and their families, and 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 for their contribution to the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons and urge all the States Parties to actively contribute to the Trust Fund. We underline that insufficient contribution to the Voluntary Fund for Assistance will considerably limit the capacity of the OPCW to provide the essential medicines and necessary medical assistance to the victims of chemical weapons.
31. Recalling the “International Symposium on Medical Treatment of Chemical Warfare Victims: Challenges and Hopes”, which took place on 28-29 June 2018, in

the Hague, the NAM CWC States Parties and China request to hold such Symposiums regularly in order to establish an International Network composed of scientists, clinicians, experts, academia and civil society with the aim to evaluate the short and long-term effects of chemical weapons on victims and make recommendations accordingly. We also call upon the Director-General to encourage the Scientific Advisory Board to further discuss the Symposium's objectives, and integrate assistance for the victims of chemical weapons into the programs and activities of the Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

32. The NAM CWC States Parties and China note with appreciation the 11<sup>th</sup> International Course on Medical Aspects of Assistance and Protection against Chemical Weapons, in Tehran on 15-19 October 2023, organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.
33. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their concern for victims of chemical weapons, which require specific and urgent assistance of the States Parties, particularly those in a position to do so and call on the Organization to give top priority to them in the next five years. In this regard, the expertise of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) could play an important role.
34. NAM CWC States Parties and China underline the responsibility of the States Parties and Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to assist the victims of chemical weapons and to coordinate and deliver to them the needed equipment, materials and medicines, in accordance with Article X. We are of the view that any restrictions, including unilateral measures, imposed by some States Parties against other States Parties, which impede assistance to the victims of Chemical Weapons, are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Convention.
35. NAM CWC States Parties and China urge States Parties to take concrete measures including, inter alia by providing materials and equipment-related assistance available to those States Parties which are in need, without any restriction. In this regard, we welcome the efforts by the Director General for his good offices to facilitate assistance to the victims of chemical weapons. In order to reach a positive outcome on this matter, we encourage the Director General to continue and intensify his efforts and inform the EC about the latest developments on the subject.
36. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to continue providing appropriate, effective and tailor-made technical assistance and support to States Parties in enhancing their national capacities and in carrying out their national implementation measures in the context of Article VII and provide the necessary financial support to do so. We firmly believe that Article VII Obligations necessitate full and effective measures by all States Parties to implement all provisions of the Convention and encourage them to continue working towards this end.

37. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the recruitment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat must be fair, transparent and must ensure equitable geographic distribution, as mandated by Article VIII, paragraph 44, of the Convention, and gender balance at all professional levels of the Organization. We emphasize that any amendment to the tenure policy shall not change the non-career nature of this Organization. Furthermore, we call upon the Secretariat to devise as soon as possible appropriate modalities of a funded internship and Junior Professional Officer Programme, which will enable candidates from developing States Parties, to have equitable access to professional positions in the Technical Secretariat.
38. The NAM CWC States Parties and China urge the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to embody in the Organizational Governance, required policy, programs and structural necessities to contribute to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the CWC in particular Article X and XI, while preserving the OPCW's experiences, expertise and organizational governance on the destruction/elimination of chemical weapons and to further strengthen the CWC in its entirety, taking into account the CWC as a unique multilateral negotiated disarmament instrument and ensuring the OPCW relevance.
39. Given the fact that the use of chemical weapons would have a disproportionate impact on women and girls and bearing in mind that the original object of the CWC is to safeguard humankind from the threat of CWs use, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the OPCW shall ensure that the identification and addressing the direct and indirect impacts of the chemical weapons on women and girls are effectively embedded in its programs and activities.
40. The NAM CWC States Parties and China take note with appreciation the continuing efforts to promote gender equity within the OPCW and call for enhanced cooperation to promote the role of women and girls in the peaceful use of chemistry. We look forward to the continuation of efforts to engage and represent women from all geographical regions to promote the full and effective implementation of the Convention.
41. The NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate that the discussions on the Draft Decision on the OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters Rules of Procedure (ABAF) should be conducted in an open and inclusive manner, while preserving its independence and avoiding issues that may lead to its politicization and polarization. Bearing in mind that the ABAF is an open-ended body without decision making powers, the NAM CWC States Parties and China hold the view that every State Party has the right to nominate expert it deems qualified and appropriate as a member of the ABAF. We consider that broad geographical distribution and composition of experts with diversified backgrounds will benefit the functioning of the ABAF.



42. NAM States Parties to the CWC and China call for efforts to address the issue of Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System (CNS)-acting chemicals for law-enforcement purposes that was adopted by vote at 26<sup>th</sup> CSP through dialogue and consensus, which is important, in a comprehensive and constructive manner, to be considered in accordance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.
43. The NAM CWC States Parties and China are of the firm belief that peace, security and economic and social development are indivisible. Moreover, as the elimination of the declared chemical weapons has been completed following the extended deadline, it is highly pertinent and timely to emphasize the importance of the chemical industry's role in the sustained growth and development of the States Parties in particular developing parties. Hence, the NAM CWC States Parties and China reiterate their stance on the necessity of further recognition and addressing the promotion of trade and international cooperation in the field of peaceful application of chemistry as one of the main priority and function of the OPCW.

**In conclusion Mr. Chairperson,**

44. The NAM CWC States Parties and China request the Technical Secretariat to further enhance its activities in the field of education and outreach to chemical industries of the developing States Parties and put in place a needs assessment mechanism in order to promote international cooperation in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes in a more tailored and efficient way.
45. The NAM CWC States Parties and China commend the Technical Secretariat activities on e-learning modules and encourage the TS to consider the development of such modules for relevant stakeholders in the field of assistance and protection.
46. The NAM CWC States Parties and China encourage States Parties to work in the spirit of goodwill and cooperation for the successful conclusion of this session. We reiterate that the practice of consensus-based decision-making by the PMOs is the right approach for achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. We urge all States Parties to neither polarize nor politicize the work of the Organization. We further reaffirm the centrality of the PMOs in the evaluation and implementation of all issues related to the Convention, in accordance with their respective mandates.

Thank you.