



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



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**2018 MEETING OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION AND STOCKPILING OF BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) AND TOXIN WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION**

**Geneva, 4 - 7 December 2018**

**Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention delivered by H.E. Mr. Jorge Valero, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**Geneva, 5 December 2018**

**Agenda Item 5:** Organization of the Meeting of States Parties

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and other States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC).

**Mr. Chairman,**

2. The Group would like to re-emphasize NAM position as reflected in the Final Document during the Seventeenth Summit of the NAM, which took place in 2016, in Margarita Island, Venezuela.
3. The Group would further recall NAM position affirmed at the NAM Ministerial meeting held in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan, in April 2018.
4. NAM and other States Parties to the BTWC remains concerned at the continuous erosion of multilateralism in the field of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control. The Group is determined to continue promoting multilateralism as the core principle of negotiations in these areas and as the only sustainable approach to address these issues, in accordance with the UN Charter.
5. The NAM Group reiterates their strong concern at the growing resort to unilateralism and in this context, underlined that multilateralism and multilaterally agreed solutions, in



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- accordance with the provisions of the Convention, provide a sustainable method of addressing the potential use and/or threat of use of biological agents and toxins.
6. The NAM Group welcomes the Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference and the Final Report of the 2017 Meeting of States Parties. The Group was engaged and worked in a constructive and positive manner on the basis of its principled positions as reflected in the NAM Working Papers, in order to promote and build common ground on important issues.
  7. The NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC welcomes the decision adopted at the Final Document of the Eighth Review Conference of the States Parties to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC), reflected in the official document BWC/CONF.VIII/4, in the Decisions and Recommendations section, contained the following decision “7. Following the practice agreed at the Seventh Review Conference, the Conference agreed that the first year’s meeting will be chaired by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States, the second by a representative of the Eastern European Group, the third by a representative of the Western Group, and the fourth by a representative of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and Other States. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups.” End the quote.
  8. Then NAM Group also welcomes the decision adopted by the 2017 Meeting of States Parties “The meetings of the MSP will be chaired by a representative of the EEG in 2018, a representative of the Western Group in 2019 and a representative of the Group of Non-Aligned Movement and Other States in 2020. The annual Chair will be supported by two annual vice-chairs, one from each of the other two regional groups.” End the quote. In this regard, in the spirit of multilateralism State Parties should respect the decisions of the Regional Groups.
  9. The Group of NAM highlights the importance by all States Parties to the BTWC to strictly adhere to the Rules of Procedure and the Decisions adopted by the Review Conferences.
  10. The Group of NAM recalls that the duty of each State to fully and in good faith comply with the international treaties to which it is a party, as well as to honour the commitments made in the framework of international organizations, and to live in peace with other States.
  11. The Group of NAM recalls that the Implementation Support Unit (ISU), which was established by the Sixth Review Conference in order to provide the necessary administrative support to meetings agreed by the Review Conference, as well as support for the comprehensive implementation and universalization of the Convention and the exchange of confidence-building measures, has successfully discharged its mandate. The Group reemphasizes the importance of equitable geographical representation and gender equality in its recruitment



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process, along with principles such as rotation and neutrality, particularly as developing countries, State Parties also share the burden of the ISU budget.

12. The Eighth Review Conference decided to renew the mandate of the Implementation Support Unit agreed to at the Seventh Review Conference, *mutatis mutandis*, for the period from 2017 to 2021.
13. The Group highlights the importance of the effective implementation of the mandate of the ISU and to provide the highest level of objectivity, accountability and transparency, at all levels, within the ISU and from the ISU to States Parties.

**Mr. Chairman,**

14. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC look forward to engage constructively to consider and review proposals along with its principle positions during the negotiations with a view to reach a consensual outcome. NAM urges to all States Parties to the BTWC to show the necessary flexibility and political will to strengthen the Convention and to hold of a successful Meeting of States Parties.

I thank you.