



**CHAIR  
NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
GENEVA CHAPTER**



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**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**

**General Statement on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and other States Parties to  
the Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention delivered by the Delegation of the  
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the United Nations Office in Geneva**

**Geneva, 5 December 2018**

**Agenda Item 7:** Management of the intersessional programme: Budgetary and financial matters

**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).
2. The Group of NAM and Other States Parties to the BTWC recalls the Decision adopted at the 2017 Meeting of States Parties, Section VI Financial Matters, and I quote “The meeting considered financial matters under item 9 of its agenda. Noting with concern the financial situation of the Convention on account inter alia of systemic issues with the current funding arrangements as well as arrears in payment of assessed contributions, the Meeting requested the Chairman of the 2018 Meeting of States Parties to prepare an Information Paper in consultation with the United Nations Office at Geneva, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Implementation Support Unit and States Parties on measures to address financial predictability and sustainability for the meetings agreed by the States Parties and for the Implementation Support Unit for review by States Parties in 2018”. End of quote.
3. The Group takes note on the Information Paper submitted by the Chairperson to address financial predictability and sustainability for the Meetings agreed by the States Parties and for the Implementation Support Unit.
4. The Group recognizes the value of continued engagement between all States Parties in finding a practical and sustainable resolution to the issue. In taking forward these discussions, we stress the importance of an inclusive approach without impinging on the rights of States Parties to fully participate in the Convention, while also emphasizing



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that measures to redress the situation must be of a voluntary nature and agreed upon by consensus.

5. We highlight that the measures proposed to address the current situation of this Convention needs further discussion. NAM emphasizes that such proposals with substantive elements needs in depth discussions and to that end a hasty decision should be avoided.
6. The Group of NAM is concerned with the possible impacts of the proposed financial measures on the participation of member States and, ultimately, on the perspectives of universalizing the Convention.

### Mr. Chairman,

7. The Group of NAM recalls that the ISU established to provide the necessary administrative support for the implementation of some aspects of the Convention mandated to it. The Group welcomes the decision of the Eighth Review Conference 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. The annual meetings will consider the annual reports of the ISU and progress on universality.
8. Also, the Group of NAM welcomes the decision of the Eighth Review Conference to continue the cooperation database established by the Seventh Review Conference. The ISU, with inputs to be provided by States Parties, will seek to improve the database to ensure that it is more user-friendly and comprehensive, and ensure that specific, timely and concrete offers of and requests for cooperation be provided by States Parties in the database.
9. The Group of NAM express its deep concern on the continued lack of adequate representation from NAM countries in United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the movement requests the Secretary General and High Representative to undertake steps to ensure balanced and equitable representation in that office.
10. NAM member states reiterate the importance of payment of the contributions in a timely manner, however, it is noted that in some cases, the member states are hindered from making their timely contributions by undue obstruction of payments.
11. NAM member commends the work done by the Chair in preparing and disseminating the Information note and Chair non paper, the NAM urges that the following points to be taken into serious considerations:



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1. Financial issues and delays and even non-payments does not take place in vacuum therefore the causes and reasons for such inconveniences should be addressed.

2. Financial matters should not affect matters of substance or the rules of procedure.

**Mr. Chairman,**

12. 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.

I thank you.