Since at most one of a_1 , a_2 , a_3 , a_4 is true, so it must satisfy:

$$\neg((a_1 \land a_2) \lor (a_1 \land a_3) \lor (a_1 \land a_4) \lor (a_2 \land a_3) \lor (a_2 \land a_4) \lor (a_3 \land a_4))$$

It is equal to:

$$(\neg a_1 \lor \neg a_2) \land (\neg a_1 \lor \neg a_3) \land (\neg a_1 \lor \neg a_4) \land (\neg a_2 \lor \neg a_3) \land (\neg a_2 \lor \neg a_4) \land (\neg a_3 \lor \neg a_4)$$
, which is the format of CNF