



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Seventh Session
28 November – 1 December 2022

C-27/NAT.116
30 November 2022
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CUBA

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ANET PINO RIVERO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18

Mr Chairperson,

Cuba advocates for an adequate balance among the four pillars of the Convention and the complete, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of its provisions as a mechanism to prevent the proliferation of chemical weapons. We underscore in particular the need for the effective implementation of Articles X and XI of the Convention.

International cooperation is seen as one of the best opportunities for the present and the future of the OPCW, as it provides tangible benefits for all States Parties and plays a decisive role in achieving the primary objectives of the Convention.

International cooperation should be guaranteed in the field of activities that are not prohibited by the Convention, including the exchange of scientific and technical information, equipment, and materials for the production, processing, and use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention.

It is only through international cooperation under Article XI that all States Parties will be in a better position to tackle nascent threats and challenges stemming from the emergence of new chemicals or new technologies in the field of chemistry.

We underscore the importance of the complete and effective implementation of subparagraph c, paragraph 2 of Article XI, preventing and/or eliminating restrictions such as unilateral measures that restrict or impede the trade, development, and promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, medical, pharmaceutical, and other purposes, as well as the commitment to revise national regulations for chemical trade by making them compatible with the object and purpose of the Convention. In this regard, the main responsibility lies with the States Parties, while the OPCW is the proper international organisation to verify the compliance of the States Parties with the provisions of the Convention.

Cuba has been the victim of repeated noncompliance with the commitments undertaken under Article XI by one State Party to the Convention. The evidence of such is set out in a national document submitted by Cuba, which has been circulated as an official document of this session of the Conference under the symbol C-27/NAT.2.



We reiterate the importance of decision C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011, which identifies the measures and actions that are to be taken for the complete, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. These actions could be complemented by the proposals from the Non-Aligned Movement as set out in C-12/NAT.1, dated 6 November 2007, which constitute an important basis for the Action Plan that has repeatedly been submitted. They could also take into account the difficulties and obstacles that States Parties are facing when it comes to the adequate implementation of Article XI, as well as the occasional needs of each country for improved implementation of the Convention.

We welcome the international cooperation programmes developed by the OPCW, particularly those aimed at capacity building through workshops and training courses. Nevertheless, more effort should be made on the part of States to carry out essential programmes such as the Equipment Exchange Programme, which is aimed at building the capacities of laboratories and facilitating the voluntary transfer—from institutions of developed countries to developing countries—of equipment that is in good working condition and related to the development and use of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, and other peaceful purposes. This implies coordinated work among laboratories, research institutions, and other institutions of the States to make this Programme work. In this regard in particular, we commend the use of it by Germany and Tanzania.

We also welcome the review and evaluation workshop on the components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI. We believe that it is necessary to have greater participation by country experts and delegations at this workshop.

The potential culmination of the process of the destruction of chemical weapons in 2023 provides a new scenario and new challenges at the same time. The level of expertise accumulated by the OPCW in verification and destruction cannot be lost. Nevertheless, resources should be redistributed in order to strengthen cooperation and assistance activities as an effective mechanism in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons or the proliferation of combinations of chemicals with the use of new technologies. The establishment of a fund for voluntary contributions to complement allocated budgetary resources for these activities would also be valued.

Thank you.

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