



**EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA AND
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

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**Statement By
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**At the Eleventh Session of
the Conference of the States Parties to
the Chemical Weapons Convention**

5 December 2006, The Hague

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Distinguished Delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to extend my delegation's warm congratulations, on your assumption of the chairmanship of the Eleventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. My delegation is confident that your astute leadership and guidance will lead this Session to a successful conclusion. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in the future.

My delegation also wishes to thank the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Arrospeide of Peru for his outstanding contribution to the OPCW.

(Overall Assessment of the state of the OPCW)

Mr. Chairman,

This year, we have made great strides in achieving the ultimate goal of the OPCW, namely the realization of the world free of chemical weapons: Possessor states have continued to destroy their chemical weapons stockpiles as committed under the Convention; The universality of the Convention has been noticeably advanced; Much progress has also been made on the national implementation of the Convention under Article VII by all States Parties. My delegation would like to express its appreciation for the unsparing efforts of the Technical Secretariat for these accomplishments.

Nevertheless, we still face many challenges ahead of us. The unexpected delay of the chemical weapons destruction by major possessor states inevitably raises concern of the international community. The threat of terrorist attack using chemical weapons places the international peace and security in serious jeopardy. We also have some unresolved issues such as challenge inspection and industry cluster issues.

My delegation sincerely hopes that this Session of the Conference is able to address these issues in a constructive and cooperative manner.

(Destruction of Chemical Weapons Stockpiles)

Mr. Chairman,

I believe the most pressing issue on our agenda is the request by major possessor states for the extension of the deadline for a 100% destruction of their CW stockpiles. Although timely destruction is the most important obligation under the Convention, the extension of the deadline for 100% destruction up to five years as allowed by the Convention seems to be unavoidable for certain major possessor states.

My delegation would like to see this matter concluded during this Session. The major possessor states should reassure us that the progress of the destruction will be made in a transparent and accountable manner.

(Proposed Programme and Budget for 2007)

Mr. Chairman,

During this conference we have to approve the programme and budget for the next year. It is our view that it is well drafted, reflecting the pending needs of the Organization to accomplish the core objectives of the OPCW. My delegation appreciates the efforts made by the Director-General and his able staffs to enhance the efficiency in managing the Secretariat.

In order to fully benefit from the Result-Based Budgeting adopted by this Organization, we need to evaluate the activities of the Organization thoroughly and avoid making the same errors. My delegation requests the Secretariat to ensure that evaluation results be duly informed to all States Parties for necessary feedback in preparing for future programme and budget.

(Universality of the Convention)

Mr. Chairman,

The universal accession to the Convention will remain one of the major goals of the OPCW. Since the entry into force of the Convention less than 10 years ago, the number of States Parties has risen to 181. I would like to extend my delegation's warm welcome to all new States Parties. My delegation also notes with delight that states such as Lebanon and Iraq will join us very soon. This shows the growing global commitment to the goal of the Convention.

As the Universality Action Plan clearly sets the goal of reaching full universality before the tenth anniversary of the convention, we cannot be too complacent. With some dubious countries still remaining outside the CW regime, we are under serious and constant threat of chemical weapons use. So we once again urge those countries to respond to the call of the OPCW immediately and without condition. We also encourage the Secretariat to strengthen its efforts to realize the full universality as soon as possible.

(Implementation of Article VII Obligations)

Mr. Chairman,

Considerable efforts have been made this year to ensure the implementation of the Article VII obligations. As a result, almost all States Parties have designated their National Authorities. The number of States Parties that have yet to take the legislative measures has also been reduced remarkably.

My delegation fully endorses the extension of the last year's decision on Article VII. Next year, we should place more emphasis on helping the States concerned adopt the required national legislation. More concerted efforts between States Parties and the Secretariat will surely be required. My delegation is ready to do its part to assist those countries.

(Preparation for the Second Review Conference)

Mr. Chairman,

The Second Review Conference to be held in 2008 will be a unique occasion to evaluate the ten year's experience in implementing the Convention. It will provide us with a good opportunity to examine the future challenges in the chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regime.

My delegation would like to thank the Working Group Chairman, Ambassador Parker of the United Kingdom, and other bureau members for their excellent work. We certainly have taken the right direction in our preparation for the Conference. I believe that the Chemical Industry and external bodies including NGOs will play a more active role.

(Tenth Anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Convention)

Mr. Chairman,

Next year, we will commemorate our tenth anniversary. It will celebrate the accomplishments of the last ten years and serve to promote international peace and security through disarmament.

(Chemical Industry Cluster)

Mr. Chairman,

By effective industry verification measures the importance of a strengthened non-proliferation regime is growing with the scientific and technological development in the chemical industry sector. Therefore, States Parties and the Secretariat have to make more concerted efforts to improve and enhance the effectiveness of chemical industry verification by the Organization.

In this respect, my delegation would like to draw attention to the issue of OCPF inspection. We believe that the number of inspections on the OCPF sites needs to be increased as much as possible with a view to preventing the proliferation of dangerous chemicals. This should be duly reflected on the future programme and budget. Furthermore, the rapid growth of the number of declared OCPFs clearly demonstrates that more

resources should be allocated for the inspection of those sites. Meanwhile, the OCPF inspection selection methodology should be agreed on by States Parties, taking into account the three weighting factors described in the Verification Annex of the Convention.

(Contribution to the work of the OPCW)

Mr. Chairman,

My government has always been and will remain a dedicated Party to the Convention. We have not only implemented our obligations under the Convention in good faith, but taken a variety of initiatives to promote the cause of the CWC. This year my government organized significant events such as the “Assistance and Protection Course” and the “Regional Seminar on Industry Cluster Issue.”

We also made voluntary contributions in the amount of 80,000 U.S. dollars to support the activities of the Secretariat to promote the universality of the Convention as well as the implementation of the Article VII obligations. Today, I am pleased to announce that, despite budgetary constraints, Korea will be making voluntary contributions again next year.

(Conclusion)

Mr. Chairman,

In closing, my delegation hopes that this Session of the Conference will provide a valuable opportunity for all of us to take stock of what we have achieved this year and consider what we have to do next year to achieve our goal, a world free of Chemical Weapons.

Thank you.