

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Kupchyshyn
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to the OPCW, Representative of Ukraine
to the Eleventh Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention
on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
The Hague,
6 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all I would like to join previous speakers in extending our warmest congratulations to you, Ambassador Alfonso Dastis of Spain, upon your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Conference. We believe, Mr. Chairman, that your skilful leadership and previous experience as a Chairman of the Executive Council, will allow you to steer successfully the work of the Eleventh Session of the Conference. In performing your important duties you may completely rely on full support and co-operation of the delegation of Ukraine.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Jose Antonio Arrospide Del Busto of Peru for his role and contribution to the success of the previous Tenth Session of the Conference. It is also a great pleasure for us to extend our greetings of welcome to the OPCW Director-General Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter and express gratitude to him and the Technical Secretariat staff for their tireless efforts in ensuring strict implementation of the Convention, in promoting its universality and in rising awareness about its leading role in global multilateral disarmament efforts.

On behalf of my Government I would like to assure you, that Ukraine is ready to provide full support to the work of the OPCW Policy-Making Organs and Technical Secretariat, proceeding from its faithful and strict compliance with the CWC provisions.

The delegation of Ukraine associates itself with the Statement by H.E. Markus Lyra, Under-Secretary of State, Finland, on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

Universality of the CWC is an important prerequisite to increase its viability and ensure irreversibility of chemical disarmament in global dimension. Ukraine highly appreciates the efforts undertaken in the framework of the Action Plan for universality, which was adopted in 2003 and calls for universal adherence to the Convention by 2007 – the tenth year since its entry into force. Decision of the

Tenth session of the Conference has set up the target – to achieve at least 180 member states by the end of year 2006. Since the last session of the Conference, 6 new State Parties have joined the Convention and this target has been successfully achieved and exceeded. It gives me a special pleasure to welcome on this occasion Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Comoros, Central African Republic and Montenegro in their new capacity as States Parties to the CWC. Regrettably 14 countries still remain outside of the Convention. Some of them are situated in such volatile regions as Middle East and North-East Asia and their non-adherence to the CWC is an additional factor exacerbating security environment in these regions.

In this context Ukraine commends the results achieved during the regional workshop for States not Party in the Mediterranean Basin and the Middle East, which was held in Rome, Italy, in October 2006 and hope that regional workshop for States non Party in Africa to be held in Algiers, Algeria, will be successful as well.

Nevertheless all State Parties to the CWC should realise that future work towards universality will require multiplication of our common efforts and next year in fact should bear fruits on this way. We therefore deem it necessary to appeal to the members of the Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of American States, African Union, League of Arab Countries and ASEAN to put the issue of the CWC non-adherence on the top of their respective annual agendas with a view to promote among their member-countries, which for the time being remain outside the Convention, awareness about the advantages to join this unique multilateral instrument banning chemical weapons and, hopefully, convince them to join the OPCW's community of nations sooner rather than later.

Mr. Chairman,

Development of chemical industry and science, wide scale manufacturing of chemicals and their growing accessibility combined with the attractiveness of toxic chemicals for criminal individuals and terrorist groups require high level of preparedness within the societies to prevent their illegitimate use. Therefore not only the CWC universality is a critical point, but strict national implementation is equally important in the international endeavours for a safer world. Implementation of basic obligations pursuant to Article VII of the CWC requires concerted efforts of police, security service, customs, boarder control, as well as of industrial, scientific and trade communities. From this perspective we attach importance to the establishment by the State Parties of their respective National Authorities and adoption of national implementation legislation. During last years we are witnessing continuous progress in this direction and highly appreciate the assistance provided by donor-countries to the countries, which have deficient recourses and lack of expertise in technical, legal or law enforcement spheres. All these efforts strengthen the confidence and trust, which lay foundation for mutual cooperation within the CWC framework. Ukraine, therefore, stands ready to endorse the recommendation to the Conference concerning the “Sustaining follow up to the Plan of Action regarding the implementation of Article VII obligations”

and acknowledges the efforts of Dutch delegation as a facilitator of the work in this direction.

Ukraine has always displayed utmost responsibility in implementation of its obligations under the international treaties. The unconditional compliance with the CWC is one of top foreign policy priority in the field of arms control and non-proliferation for Ukraine.

The proper compliance with obligations under the Convention is ensured by the National Program on CWC implementation for the ten-year period till 2008. The Program co-ordinates concerted actions of number of ministries and agencies involved in the process of CWC implementation. Ukraine has adopted appropriate legislation, which provides legal framework for a binding CWC implementation, including respective provisions in the country's new Criminal Code. Ukraine strictly controls at the governmental level all export-import operations and transfers of scheduled chemicals. The regulations are subject to change and take into account the decisions adopted by the Policy-making organs of the OPCW, as exemplified by Decree of the Government of Ukraine # 809, dated 7 June 2006 "On changes to the State control on international transfers of dual-use goods". Amendments to the previous regulation proceeded from two basic requirements: diversification of conditions for the transfers of chemicals, belonging to different Schedules of the CWC, more appropriate language for the requirements to the transfers of chemicals to State Parties and State not Parties to the Convention. In light of the EC Recommendation to this Session on "Measures regarding the transfer of Schedule 3 chemicals to State not Party to the Convention", which we fully endorse, the National Authority of Ukraine will continue to attach importance to this issue.

Mr. Chairman,

Next years are expected to be crucial for global efforts in the chemical disarmament, as an increasing number of destruction facilities will start operating. Like many other delegations we attach particular importance to the timely destruction of chemical weapons' stockpiles, accumulated by the possessor states, especially by two major possessors, namely Russian Federation and the USA. We are aware that from technological, environmental and financial perspectives this process is highly complicated, very expensive and time-consuming. Nevertheless Convention has established specific deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons, which should have been met. Since the last session of the Conference, requests for the establishment of a revised dates for the phase 4 deadline for the destruction of Category 1 chemical weapons were put forward by almost all possessor-states. Adoption of these revised dates will legitimize new political reality, namely the fact that international community should reconcile itself for another five years with the enduring risks associated with chemical weapons stockpiles. At the same time Ukraine fully respects legitimate right of this States to use relevant provisions of the Convention and encourages State Parties concerned to ensure their compliance with revised deadlines requested by them.

We hope that possessor states will inform regularly and transparently about progress and difficulties they are facing in implementing their chemical weapons' elimination programs, particularly using the mechanism of visits, which was under discussion during the last time. At the same time, every effort should be made to respect final possible extended deadline for the destruction of all chemical weapons by all possessor states.

Verification regime of the OPCW is the tool not only for the multilateral control over destruction of chemical weapons, but it is a crucial element for chemical non-proliferation. Ukraine, which has received in 2006 two inspections of its chemical industry facilities, supports current OPCW's activities, aimed at maintenance of strict chemical non-proliferation regime. Nevertheless we support current efforts to develop new methodology in selection of the inspections, which will enable to focus on the inspection of the facilities posing greater risks.

A comprehensive and timely national implementation of the Convention is the only way to achieving successfully the CWC goals. One of the problems in the implementation of the Convention is a timely submission of annual declarations on past activities. Ukraine spares no effort to submit the declarations in time frames stipulated by the Convention. In this context we support the exploratory work of the Technical Secretariat to spread the practice of presenting declarations in electronic form. This will allow us to improve the effectiveness of the verification regime and redress the misbalance in the implementation of the Convention by the States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring the implementation of Article X of the CWC remains one of the most important tasks for the OPCW and its Members. The year since the conduct of the major OPCW-EADRCC (Euro - Atlantic Disaster Relief Coordination Center) event "Joint Assistance 2005" exercise, which was conducted at the Yavoriv Training Area near L'viv in Ukraine from 9 to 13 October 2005, much has been done to draw lessons and conclusions relevant both to the Technical Secretariat and State parties. From this perspective it should be emphasized that Ninth Annual Assistance workshop which was held in Kyiv, Ukraine, 18-20 October 2006 was a subsequent step forward in the understanding of current trends and challenges in further implementation of the Article X of the Convention. It is a bit regrettable that such important and successful event was not mentioned in yesterday brilliant statement of the Director-General.

In this context I am pleased to inform that Ukrainian side plans to host OPCW's workshop on issues of cooperation between local emergency management authorities and international organisations in March 2007.

Mr.Chairman

The activities of the OPCW are based on efficient budgetary system and we appreciate efforts of the Technical Secretariat aimed to improve the effectiveness of cost management and measures to reduce some spending. Planned “zero” budget increase which is not expected to hamper effective functioning of the OPCW is very important achievement of the Director-General and his well-experienced team. We hope that the Conference will adopt the OPCW Program and the Budget for 2007 with due consideration of the needs and interests of both the OPCW as a whole and individual States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

At this Session of the Conference we are addressing difficult issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to co-operate fully with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organisation aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you for attention.