



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA
AT
THE ELEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

DELIVERED BY
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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to join all previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chairperson of the 11th Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I would also like to use this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson of the 10th Conference, for the good work done. It is also my great pleasure to congratulate all new members upon their election to the 11th Session.

2. I do extend my Government's appreciation to the Director-General of the OPCW, Mr. Rogelio Pfirter, and the Staff of OPCW for the support they have extended to Uganda which enabled us to comply with relevant provisions of this Convention more specifically with Article VII. This has been achieved through a number of training courses for our officers at different levels thus contributing to capacity building which is an essential part of our development in Africa.

3. Uganda wishes to align itself with the statements delivered on behalf of the African group and the non-aligned movement (NAM) and China. The Chemical Weapons Convention, a key cornerstone of the international community's collective action, ensures that weapons of mass destruction are and will not be used against nations and peoples of the world nor threaten them with their use. It is against this background that all of us gathered here should adopt determined and consistent policies in order to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. However, this does not mean that we should not make use of materials or technological advancements for useful purposes, which are not prohibited by the Convention.

The principal of universality is one of the key objectives at present. The accession of six new members is a very positive development in this regard.

4. Regarding implementation of Article VII I would like to emphasise that Uganda already established a National Authority in February 2002 which is fully functioning.

Uganda's Plan of Action on national implementation measures, much as it is a non-possessor State, will utilise all the available resources in order to meet the provisions of Article VII of the Convention. Allow me to inform the Conference that at national level, we are moving forward to fulfil our obligations. Our national legislation bill, called "The Chemical Weapons Prohibition Bill" has been finalised. Presently Cabinet is considering this Bill after it will be presented to Parliament for enactment. The Bill once enacted will give this Convention the full force and effect it deserves. We are confident that our efforts will bear results soon.

5. We do welcome the OPCW Programme and Budget for 2007 and do wish to encourage the Technical Secretariat to continue with the implementation of its priority programmes.

6. I would like to express our appreciation for the continued support we have received from the European Union (EU) and the OPCW to our National Authority in areas of capacity building, technical and awareness of the CWC. I wish to thank in particular the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, France and German for the financial assistance and capacity building through the provision of office and laboratory equipment.

I wish to thank the Technical Secretariat for facilitating a National Authority Training Course on the Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention for the National Authority members and other Stakeholders on 6-7 September 2004 in Kampala, Uganda.

It is worth mentioning that the drafting of the national legislation would not have proceeded as quickly without the assistance of the Technical Secretariat. The awareness workshop enhanced our legislative development process to the level we have reached at present. Other States Parties which are facing similar difficulties in developing national legislation should learn from Uganda's positive experience and make use of the facilities offered by the Technical Secretariat.

7. In view of the promotion of universality, it is important that an office is established in Africa to serve as an outreach office. The likely success of such office will definitely outweigh its cost. Creating awareness on the African continent and allowing African leaders to make the necessary input towards international peace and security will be of prime importance.

8. Uganda is pleased to announce that it is willing to host the Fifth African Regional Meeting of National Authorities in Kampala in October 2007 and welcomes all participants to "the Pearl of Africa", as Uganda had been referred to by the late Sir Winston Churchill.

9. I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Director of International Cooperation and Assistance Division, Mr. John Makhubalo who will be leaving the Secretariat in due course.

During his tenure Mr. Makhubalo has succeeded in achieving the goals and objectives of the OPCW by building a strong and effective Division under his capable leadership.

Uganda welcomes his successor, H.E. Ambassador Kalimi Mworira, and wishes her every success in her endeavours. We are very confident that she will execute this challenging task in a very dedicated and enthusiastic manner for which she has earned respect in her present assignment.

Mr. Chairman,

10. Allow me to conclude my short remarks by reiterating our commitment to the objects and purpose of the CWC as a key element in ensuring that our future generations are not faced with obliteration and destruction by weapons of mass destruction. We can only provide a guarantee when all such weapons of mass destruction are eliminated and all of us join in preventing the production of such weapons so that they can not be used again for purposes against humanity.

Lastly, Mr.Chairman, I would like to wish you and all distinguished delegates success in your deliberations.

Thank you