



OPCW

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**STATEMENT BY THE HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF CUBA
TO THE THIRTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES
(ITEM 17 OF THE AGENDA IN RELATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF ARTICLE XI OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION)
THE HAGUE, 5 DECEMBER 2008**

Thank you Mr Chairman.

The delegation of Cuba wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the delegation of China for its dedication and effort in the facilitation of such a very complex matter as the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention. In this context, I feel obliged to give a special mention to our dear colleague Mr Li Hong.

Since the Tenth Session of the Conference, this matter has certainly been one requiring the attention of the States Parties, which has been duly reflected in the relevant documents of our Organisation, the OPCW.

My delegation also wishes to express its gratitude to the Technical Secretariat and to all delegations which in a constructive and proactive manner have favoured during this period a certain rapprochement among States Parties in the understanding and the will to implement this important provision of the Convention.

Furthermore, my delegation wishes to thank all delegations which, respectfully and in a sensible manner, have supported the Cuban proposal for an Article XI workshop which constitutes an additional element that, in our view, could pave the way for this complex negotiation.

The approach to this proposal is essentially pragmatic and is closely related to the principles on which is based the interpretation that we the poorest countries, including those that form the Non-Aligned Movement, make the “full implementation of Article XI of the Convention” a widely known concept in this Organisation.

From an operational point of view, the above-mentioned proposal comprises some challenges and complexities that we need to face if we really want to accomplish the common objective of the full implementation of Article XI. This proposal is based on specific ideas and contributions that have been presented, which nonetheless have not produced the necessary progress.



The Cuban proposal also represents a challenge for our own country, which has been blockaded and besieged for almost 50 years by the biggest power in the world. We have taken on this challenge, which we have decided to share with the States Parties, because we believe in the principles of interaction and multilateralism as ways to achieve a better world. For this reason, the delegation of Cuba to the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention appeals to and calls upon all States Parties to increase their efforts and to devote determination and perseverance to the negotiation process that will lead us to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

Cuba will maintain its unlimited commitment, as it has done until now, to the implementation of all provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and will keep working with all the States Parties, as always, along this very route.

The Cuban delegation respectfully requests the Chairman of the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention to treat this statement as an official document of the Conference.

Thank you.

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