

**XIII e CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

(The Hague, 2 – 5 December 2008)

**STATEMENT DELIVERED BY H.E.M.BENCHAA DANI,
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AND HEAD OF THE ALGERIAN DELEGATION**

The Hague, 2 December 2008

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Allow me first of all, to address to you, Mr Chairman, on behalf of the Algerian delegation, my sincere congratulations on the occasion of your outstanding election to chair this 13th Conference of States Parties. This feeling is not only reinforced by the quality of the relationship between our two countries, Algeria and Japan, as well as by our personal relations but also because of your professional skills and the wisdom from your side we got used to. For all this I can assure you of my personal support, in my capacity of Chairman of the Plenary Commission, and of the support of the Algerian delegation in view of your success and that of our work.

Algeria joins fully the statements of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, on the one hand, and of the African countries, on the other hand, delivered respectively by H.E.Mr. Oscar de los Reyes, Permanent Representative of Cuba, and the Representative of the Republic of South Africa.

Mr.Chairman,

The occasion is given to me, also, to greet a whole year of Arab diplomacy in the service of general and full disarmament, shown at the 12th Session of the Conference of the States Parties as well as the Second Review Conference during which Sudan, Saudi Arabia and Algeria chaired the works. Thus, I am pleased to express all my consideration to your predecessor, Ambassador Idriss, as well as Ambassadeur El Khreedj who deserves to be honoured in particular as he is going to exchange his function of Permanent Representative for other functions in other places. I address my congratulations, at this end of the Arab year also, to Lebanon for having presented us with its impending membership of our Organisation, by depositing on 20 November 2008 the instruments of ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. So, Beirut has just added an important stone to the edifice of disarmament, making so its contribution to the courageous project of transforming the Middle East in an area free off mass destruction weapons and to which my country adheres fully. After some days Lebanon will be the 185^e State Party to our Convention. Algeria welcomes also the invited countries present here among us and in particular, Iraq, in the firm belief that this great country will join soon this Organisation.

We are gladly grateful to another Permanent Representative, Mr Eric Javitts of the United States of America – who will leave the Hague soon - because of the important work to which he made a contribution over the last years as well as for his professional and humanitarian qualities, the moral values and the positive spirit of wisdom and conciliation that he succeeded in imprinting on our work. My congratulations are of course addressed to the other members of the Bureau and those among the States Parties elected to the position of directors of this conference. I pay in particular tribute to Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter and to the members of the Technical Secretariat for their exceptional devotion in view of the achievement of chemical disarmament, a project that is of the highest importance for my country. I congratulate the Director General for his edifying opening Statement.

Mr Chairman,

Besides the Arab World, Africa has not been kept on the sidelines of this fantastic undertaking. On the contrary, the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has been reinforced this year by the adherence of two new African States, the Congo and Guinea Bissau, whose participation I welcome today. Henceforth Africa is represented by some fifty States Parties, pending the adherence of Angola, Egypt and Somalia to our Organisation as soon as possible.

This massive adherence to the Convention shows the growing interest in chemical disarmament and security concerns of a continent, in expectancy of a support of the international community, and whose needs of capacity and equipment reinforcement are most felt. Moreover, it is from this viewpoint that on the initiative of Algeria, the specific Programme for Africa has been created and begins gradually to become established. However, should one congratulate all the actors of the Technical Secretariat for their efforts in favour of its elaboration, a thorough review of the conception of this programme has to be engaged in order to satisfy the ambitions of the Africans. No need to remind that a qualitatively and quantitatively enriched programme should cover most of the responsibilities following on from the provisions of the Convention and namely, in its Articles 7, 10 and 11, and with the aim of course of the reinforcement of security in the African continent.

From this point of view, Algeria who takes the greatest interest in this praiseworthy initiative, declares itself at the disposal of the international community and the Organisation in view of the reinforcement of this programme and the mobilization of the resources that will be necessary. A sustained appeal is addressed thus to the international community in order that it honours its promises by means of contributions that are likely to finance the projects already registered in this programme.

It is obvious that in accordance with the conclusions of the Second Review Conference, these deployment will be implemented with the assistance of the African Commission with which the OPCW has already signed a memorandum of understanding as well as with the African Center for Study and Research on Terrorism. My country is ready to host all activities in the framework of the implementation of Article X of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons as it did for the universality and the implementation of Article 7 in Africa. Algeria continues to be also ready to give assistance to African countries on their request in the framework of the establishment of their national authorities and the implementation of the convention.

The major part of the credit of this new dynamism in Africa is due to our Director-General who has confirmed, some days ago, in Addis Ababa, the will of the Organisation *to make* the African Union *give its* own contribution to the security ambition of our continent.

Mr Chairman,

This 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties follows immediately the Second Review Conference in April 2008 during which my country has tried to give victory to the virtues multilateralism and transparency, cardinal values that is has defended and assumed from time immemorial. The results of this important event in the life of our Organisation enlighten us and involve us more in an implementation adapted to the priorities and

challenges of the new century.

Algeria who has taken part in September 2008 in the visit of a delegation of the Executive Council to the chemical weapons destruction facility of Shchuchye in Russia, appeals urgently on the possessor countries to take the necessary measures in order to comply with the deadline on 29th April 2012, date of the final elimination of this category of weapons of mass destruction. Algeria congratulates a State Party on having completed its process of destruction of its declared stockpiles of chemical weapons. After Albania, it is the second member of the international community that has accomplished its humanitarian obligation of destruction and an act of pacification and securisation of international relationship.

Mr Chairman,

This commitment of Algeria extends to all provisions of the Convention that it hopes will be translated on the field without any discrimination, as the purposes of destruction, non proliferation and development are so closely linked.

In this regard, the responsibilities of my country in the framework of the Articles VI and VII in its capacity of vice Chairman of the Executive Council as well as for its charges of facilitator, also reflect its resolute commitment to work for the achievement of all the aims of disarmament in the framework of dialogue, objectivity and equity. In this context even if the majority of the States Parties are pleased about the implementation of the new site selection methodology, the fact remains that much work has still to be done in view of the conception of a final system agreed by the whole of the international community. The nomination of two new facilitators for industrial question constitutes an enhancement and is a sign of authentic cooperation spirit created and sustained by Algeria. On the other hand, the consultations on the action plan relating to Article 7 are henceforth marked by a positive approach thanks to the common will to transcend situations of contradiction et because of the efforts of the Organisation that should be sustained and reinforced, creating thus a synergy between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat that would be convenient to develop and to multiply.

Similarly Algeria continues to denounce the obstacles to which developing countries are subjected in the field of their economic and technological development on the occasion of transactions of chemicals and equipment for the chemical industry or exchanges of scientific and technological information. Algeria calls for a full implementation of the Convention so that no unwarranted restriction of any kind be imposed on activities which are not incompatible. For this the requirement of full application of Article 11 of the Convention remains crucial and a priority. Therefore Algeria supports ongoing consultations conducted by China in view of the elaboration of an action plan and in favour of a permanent dialogue avec all the States Parties and the industrial world as well as a workshop likely to explore the means of implementation of Article 11. Algeria continues to believe firmly that a full and effective implementation of this mainstay of the Convention contributes without any doubt to reinforcing international security.

Confirmed by the recommendations of the Second Review Conference, the implementation of Article 10 on protection and assistance should be reinforced in order to respond to situations of use or threat of use of chemical weapons.

In this respect, the national course organised in Algiers from 24th to 28th November 2008 fits totally in this objective assigned by the Convention. It precedes the national and regional exercises that will be hold in 2009 in Algeria.

Mr Chairman,

Hit by the bloody and inhuman effects of terrorism, my country remains convinced that this blind scourge has become nowadays a major challenge for international peace and security against which the international community has to be mobilized at any moment and at any place in the world. In this infernal spiral imposed by transnational terrorism, the production, threat and use of chemical weapons by non-State forces constitute un new potential danger and objective of humanitarian disaster that one has to evaluate at his right dimension.

Thanks to the results of the Second Review Conference, our Organisation is henceforth involved in the prevention of chemical terrorism and aware of the risks of the use of toxic products for the purpose of terrorism. Therefore my country considers that the application of new orientations is urgent and calls for the elaboration of effective anti-terrorism measures. My country is ready for all concrete initiatives and actions in view of a conceptualisation of chemical terrorism in order to fight resolutely this imminent danger of proliferation that is likely to endanger the whole mankind.

Mr Chairman,

Consultations on the Budget Programme for 2009 are going on in a positive spirit and in the framework of a fruitful dialogue. My delegation makes her contribution in order to bring the last negotiations to a successful conclusion in a collegiate responsibility so that the Budget for 2009 can reflect at the best the policy, the priorities and the main orientations of the Organisation.

Algeria considers, finally, that the Commission of Contact with the Host State of which it is member should meet more frequently in order to define an ambitious statute and to speak in favour of appropriate diplomatic facilities.