

Statement by Jamaica

**Delivered by H.E. JOY WHEELER
Permanent Representative to the Organization for the Prohibition of
Chemical Weapons
at the
Thirteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties to the
Chemical Weapons Convention**

The HAGUE, 3RD December 2008

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation joins previous speakers in congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your election and assure you of Jamaica's support and cooperation as you ably guide the deliberations of this 13th session of the Conference of States Parties towards a successful outcome.

Let me also use this opportunity to express appreciation to the distinguished Ambassador of Sudan for his efficient oversight of the work of the 12th Session of the Conference of States Parties during the past year.

At the same time, Jamaica commends the unwavering efforts of the Director General and the staff of the secretariat in promoting the Chemical Weapons Convention and, notes with appreciation, the comprehensive and informative account of the work of the organization in the implementation of the Convention, which will guide our deliberations over the next few days.

My delegation is pleased to associate itself with the Statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Cuba on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Mr. Chairman,

As we continue to face the challenges of a complex international security environment, there is no doubt that grave concerns remain over the threat of weapons of mass destruction and their proliferation and this issue continues, therefore, to feature among the priority areas for attention on the international peace and security agenda.

In this regard, Jamaica remains resolute in its commitment to the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention and supportive of the activities of the organization in keeping with our long-standing policy position on non-proliferation and general disarmament. We, therefore, commend the OPCW'S achievement to date and underscore our high regard for the organization's contribution to this process, which was recently highlighted by the Director General in his presentation to the First Committee Plenary of the United Nations General Assembly.

In so doing, Jamaica remains steadfast in its adherence to the principles and ideals of multilateralism, with the conviction that multilateral diplomacy must be the axis of all global efforts designed to resolve the issues surrounding international peace and security.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica considers the universalization process a cornerstone for enhanced international commitment towards effectively reducing the development, production, use and threat of use of all types of weaponry. We, therefore, applaud this OPCW direction and are encouraged by the "almost" universal status of the Chemical Weapons Convention with currently 184 States Parties with the 185th well on its way to becoming a full member.

We welcome the new members and congratulate them on the important step they have taken. We are confident that their accession to the Convention will have a positive effect on the disarmament process, banning as it does, an entire category of weapons of mass destruction within a framework that allows for strict and effective control and verification.

We are particularly pleased with the important progress that has been made towards bringing all countries of the Caribbean sub-region under the framework of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

Recalling our strong commitments at the Second Review Conference which provided a useful opportunity to take stock of our achievements and plan for the future, Jamaica wishes to underscore the importance of the follow-up work necessary to attain the objectives of the Convention. We encourage the organization's sustained focus on implementing Article XI relating to the peaceful use of chemistry in the

economic and technological development of States Parties, to facilitate in the shortest possible time, agreement on an acceptable framework, taking into account the interest of all States Parties.

On that occasion we also underscored the importance of the complete destruction of existing stockpiles of chemical weapons within the stipulated deadline, towards attaining the objectives of the Convention. Jamaica welcomes the fact that we have made progress in this regard and that another state party has completed its destruction process within the mandated timetable. We hope that this will be a strong encouragement to other possessor states as they work towards destruction of their stockpiles as early as possible.

Mr. Chairman,

Against the background of an increasingly difficult international financial scenario, Jamaica notes with satisfaction, the constructive efforts made by the secretariat towards the efficient management of the organization's financial and human resources and, is pleased that once again, we have the proposal for a zero nominal growth budget over 2008, while at the same time, taking into account and seeking to meet the changing needs of States Parties. It is also hoped that we will be able to maintain the current level of assessed contributions as far is realistically possible. We look forward to a satisfactory and speedy conclusion of deliberations on the programme and budget for 2009.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica welcomes this opportunity to express the highest appreciation to the OPCW secretariat for the ongoing and consistent support under the technical cooperation and other assistance programmes geared towards national capacity-building, enabling and encouraging the peaceful use of chemistry, including through focus on the development and strengthening of chemical industries and providing high-level training for our human resources. We also thank those countries that have partnered with the secretariat, both financially and technically, in making this assistance available, from which Jamaica has benefited considerably.

Mr. Chairman,

Jamaica takes seriously its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention and reiterates its commitment to continue working with the secretariat in fulfillment of same and in advancing the work of the

OPCW. We remain optimistic that our deliberations at this session of the Conference of States parties will contribute to further progress in the implementation of the Convention.

It is Jamaica's wish that this Statement be circulated as an official document of the 13th Session of the Conference of States Parties.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.