



Statement by Ambassador UĐur DoĐan

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to the OPCW

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The Hague, 29 November-3 December 2010

STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

(The Fifteenth Conference of the States Parties, 29 November-3 December 2010,
The Hague)

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to extend my Delegation's compliments to Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva of Guatemala, for his election to the Chairmanship of the Fifteenth Conference of the States Parties. We are of the firm belief that Ambassador Silva's well respected diplomatic skills coupled with the able guidance of the Director General of the OPCW Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, will help ensure the success of this conference. They will have the full cooperation and support of the Turkish Delegation.

Our gratitude goes to the Ambassador of Lithuania, HE Vaidotas Verba, who with great diligence chaired the Fourteenth Conference of the States Parties last year.

We also extend our thanks and appreciation to Ambassador Jorge Lomonaco Tonda of Mexico and Ambassador Jean-François Blarel of France, the respective Chairpersons of the Executive Council for their diligent and dedicated work.

Mr. Chairman,

Turkey has aligned itself with the EU Statement. Nevertheless, I would like to touch upon several issues which are, we believe, important for this body and my country.

Mr. Chairman,

The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) has a noble aim to eliminate entire chemical weapons in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner. To achieve this aim, universality and full implementation of the obligations under the Convention by all States Parties are essential.

We are pleased to note that after the accession of Iraq, the Dominican Republic and Bahamas in 2009, the number of States Parties to the Convention have increased to a total of 188. There are 7 States left not party to the Convention. I would like to emphasize that the objective of the Convention will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single state not party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons. Therefore, we should keep the momentum until all States become party to the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to touch upon the implementation of one of the core objectives of the CWC, namely the elimination of all chemical weapons and their production facilities. Since the entry into force of the Convention, over 60 % of declared stockpile of

Category 1 chemical weapons have been destroyed. So far, three States Parties completely eliminated their declared chemical weapons stockpile under the CWC. We welcome the start of the destruction activities of the Abandoned Chemical Weapons by Japan in China. These are important steps towards reaching a chemical weapons free world.

However, we are concerned that two major possessor states may not be able to meet the final extended deadlines for the destruction of chemical weapons and there is no progress in Iraq to start initial inspection and destruction operations. Taking these facts into consideration, we think that destruction activities will continue after the final extended deadlines. The continuity of the destruction activities after 2012 will have to be maintained, while we preserve the integrity of the Convention. In this context, we support the informal consultations by the Executive Council on issues related to meeting final extended deadlines, with a view to taking a political decision at the next CSP, in 2011. As for the possessor states parties, we expect that they confirm their commitment to continue destruction activities, make every effort to meet their destruction obligations as soon as possible and provide enhanced transparency including a reasonable destruction plan.

Mr. Chairman,

Considering the future activities of the OPCW, it can easily be seen that there will be substantial reduction in destruction activities after 29 April 2012. Therefore, the OPCW will need less inspectors and this significant change will cause a reorganization in the OPCW. Although we have more than a year until this change occurs, the Technical Secretariat will soon start preparing the draft programme and budget of the Organisation for 2012, and this draft budget will be discussed after submission to the Executive Council. We are prepared to work with the Technical Secretariat and the Delegations to help the OPCW continue to fulfill its responsibilities in terms of effective implementation of core objectives of the Convention, without any compromises. In this context, we are confident that under the able supervision of the General-Director of the OPCW Ambassador Üzümcü, the Technical Secretariat will successfully realize this transition.

Mr. Chairman,

Verification is another core objective of the Convention which provides for systematic on-site monitoring of the destruction of chemical weapons and production facilities. The verification regime also creates an opportunity to monitor the activities not prohibited under the Convention. Taking into account the substantial reduction in destruction activities after 29 April 2012, we need to ensure that the effectiveness of the verification system will be kept. In this vein, we believe that the number of OCPF inspections should further be increased and the declarations of OCPFs should be submitted accurately and updated in a timely manner. We welcome the commencement of consultations on the topic of "OCPF Site Selection Methodology" under the industry cluster activities and thank the Permanent Representatives of the Netherlands and Malaysia who took up the issue as co-facilitators. My delegation is

prepared to attend constructively the consultations, in order to develop an agreed methodology in place of the existing interim site selection methodology.

Mr. Chairman,

Effective national implementation of the Article VII obligations is crucial for the success of the Convention and plays an indispensable role for our common security. In order to fulfill this obligation, the States Parties should establish a National Authority and take legislative and administrative measures to implement the Convention. Turkey acknowledges the progress made on the implementation of Article VII obligations, however it is clear that further efforts are required worldwide in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

Assistance and protection against chemical weapons continues to be an equally important topic. It is crucial to give an effective and timely response in case of use or threat of use of chemical weapons. In this context, I would like to inform the Conference that Turkey participated with a medical team in the third exercise on delivery of assistance, ASSISTEX 3, which was held from 11 to 15 October 2010, in Tunisia. This exercise gave the opportunity to evaluate the preparedness of the Technical Secretariat and States Parties to deliver assistance under Article X of the Convention. We believe that ASSISTEX 3 will contribute to the better implementation of this article.

Turkey attaches particular importance to Article XI of the Convention which is economic and technological development. International cooperation in this field avails States Parties to develop capacities required to implement the Convention and promote use of chemicals for peaceful purposes. In this regard, we were pleased to participate in the workshop, which took place at the OPCW Headquarters on 24 and 25 November 2010 on exploring concrete measures to improve the implementation of Article XI of the CWC. During the workshop, it was possible to take stock of implementation of international cooperation activities in this field and develop new ideas and concrete measures for full implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Turkey looks forward to working with you and with the Secretariat constructively in the coming days and pledges its full support for the successful completion of the Conference.

Thank you.