

STATEMENT
by H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Horin,
Head of Delegation, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine
at the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of States Parties
to the Chemical Weapons Convention
The Hague, 29 November 2010

Mr. Chairman,

First of all I would like to join previous speakers in extending my warmest congratulations to you upon your assumption of the Chairmanship of the Conference. We are convinced, that your skills will allow you to steer successfully the work of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference. In performing your important duties you may completely rely on full support and co-operation of the delegation of Ukraine.

I would also like to thank the former Chairman of the Conference, Ambassador Vaidotas Verba of Lithuania for his role and contribution to the success of the previous Fourteenth Session of the Conference.

It is also a great pleasure for us to extend our greetings of welcome to the OPCW Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Uzumcu and express gratitude to him and his staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring progress in the implementation of the Convention.

The delegation of Ukraine aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Belgium on behalf of the European Union.

Mr. Chairman,

Universality of the CWC is an important factor to enhance its credibility and ensure irreversible character of chemical disarmament in global dimension. The OPCW Member States already represent about 98% of the global population and landmass, as well as 98% of the worldwide chemical industry.

Ukraine highly appreciates the efforts undertaken by the OPCW and the States Parties to ensure universality of the Convention. Nevertheless, Ukraine expects that other states, which still remain outside the Convention, would follow suit sooner rather than later.

We believe that an active pace towards the universality of the Convention has to be resumed.

Mr. Chairman,

Since both chemical industry and science play a growing role in modern society, proper implementation of the Convention by its State Parties on the national level is of critical importance for its viability. We are pleased to note that implementation of basic obligations stemming from Article VII of the CWC is

being actively pursued. Ukraine, therefore, stands ready to endorse further recommendations to the Conference in this regard.

Ukraine has always displayed utmost responsibility in implementation of its obligations under the international treaties. The unconditional compliance with the CWC remains in the priority list of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation policy of Ukraine.

Having enacted the appropriate legislation, we continue to enforce respective national implementation acts, including those pertaining to Ukraine's membership in the Australia Group.

Mr. Chairman,

Chemical disarmament remains the priority issue for the OPCW and the State Parties. We attach particular importance to the timely destruction of chemical weapons' stockpiles, accumulated by the possessor states. In this context, we share the view that CW destruction have to be implemented as rapidly as practicable and in strict compliance with the highest environmental requirements. We welcome efforts of possessor states to examine available measures that might accelerate further CW destruction.

In this regard, we welcome the report of the Executive Council delegation visited last September, upon the invitation of the Government of the Russian Federation, the chemical weapons destruction facility in Pochep, Bryansky Region. Ukraine commends renewed firm commitment of the Russian Federation for fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, including the complete destruction of its remaining stockpiles.

The Verification regime of the OPCW is a crucial element of multilateral control over destruction of chemical weapons, as well as the tool to deter chemical proliferation. Ukraine supports current OPCW activities. The issue of ensuring a viable chemical non-proliferation regime should be given proper attention in the future.

We are in favour of a more equitable and fair methodology in the selection of inspections for the other chemicals production facilities (OCPF), which should focus on inspections of the facilities posing greater risks and diminish the burden of inspection for the countries which possess a relatively small number of OCPF on their territory.

Mr. Chairman,

Ensuring the implementation of Article X of the CWC remains one of the most important tasks for the OPCW and its Members. In this context the National Authority of Ukraine continues consultations with the OPCW Technical Secretariat aimed at concluding bilateral agreement on assistance measures chosen by member states under Article X of the Convention. The last consultations were held in Kyiv in November 2010.

We are pleased to inform you that Ukraine was among several State Parties, which hosted during 2009-2010 a few visits of experts from the TS OPCW, aimed at assessing the readiness and reliability of the technical means and human resources offered by Ukraine under Article X. Without prejudice to the conclusions made by the expert team, Ukraine is pleased that our Ministry of Emergency, Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Health succeeded in demonstrating the good skills of their personnel and the readiness of special tools and equipment for rescue and emergency missions involving chemical agents.

Two Ukrainian experts were nominated by the National Authority of Ukraine to participate as competent observers in the Third OPCW Exercise on the Delivery of Assistance (ASSISTEX 3), Tunis, Tunisia, 11-15 October 2010 which increased the best practice of the ASSISTEX-2 multilateral exercises, held in Ukraine in 2005.

It is also important to continue the work aimed at facilitation of Article X in order to identify further areas and activities to address the concerns of Member States in the sphere of protection against threat of use of toxic chemicals as a means of terror. A concrete example in this direction is the proposal tabled by Poland to conduct a Table Top exercise supported by EU to reduce the risks of toxic chemicals being acquired or used for terrorist purposes.

Mr. Chairman,

Activities of the OPCW are based on an efficient budgetary system and we appreciate efforts of the Technical Secretariat to improve the effectiveness of cost management and measures to reduce some spending. Planned “zero” budget increase for six consecutive years which is not expected to hamper effective functioning of the OPCW is a very important achievement of the OPCW.

In this respect, strong budgetary possibilities will make OPCW more functional and resourceful for the implementation of its ultimate goal. The Ukrainian delegation, therefore, expects that the Session will support the recommendations of the Executive Council as to its future budget with due consideration of the needs and interests of both the OPCW as a whole and individual States Parties.

Mr. Chairman,

Finally a few words about the role of chemical science and technology, which continues to play a prominent role in the 21st century. This is confirmed by the announcement in 2011 - the Year of Chemistry according to the decision of UN Assembly.

In our opinion, the activities in the area makes an invaluable contribution in shaping the future of our Organization, as evidenced by the preliminary evaluation of the Workshop on Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We hope that these results will be carefully handled and we will have opportunity to be familiar with the recommendations regarding the OPCW future.

Mr. Chairman,

At this Session of the Conference we are addressing issues that demand our close attention. The delegation of Ukraine is ready to co-operate fully with the delegations of other States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to do its utmost to work for the implementation of the important task of the Organization aimed at complete elimination of chemical weapons.

Thank you for attention.