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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROBERT P. MIKULAK
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES, UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18
"FOSTERING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES
IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES"**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to thank the facilitator for Article XI, Ms Abeer S. Khaleefah, for her work and our colleagues in the Technical Secretariat for their very active efforts to strengthen international cooperation. The United States of America attaches great importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, which is not only important in its own right but is also closely related to effective monitoring of chemical industry, effective national implementation, and provision of assistance and protection with respect to toxic chemicals.

My delegation is proud of the U.S. record in promoting all aspects of the Convention, including those that relate to Article XI. This morning, U.S. Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Rose Gottemoeller, highlighted the U.S. record of promoting Article XI issues when she delivered the U.S. national statement to this Conference. No country does more than the United States of America to promote free trade in chemicals and to further international cooperation and exchange of scientific and technical information in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.

Madam Chairperson, unlike other aspects of our Convention, however, there is a plurality of views regarding how to promote Article XI within the framework of the Convention. There is in fact a plurality of views in the international community about what is the best way to promote development. Revisiting issues that delegations have already repeatedly considered and on which consensus clearly cannot be reached, like the so-called facilitator's paper, is not helpful in advancing a common approach to Article XI. This paper fails to accurately and fairly portray the diversity of views among delegations, and therefore fails to form any basis for further discussion. It would be far better to build on areas of agreement, in particular the agreed components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI, which have languished since they were approved by this Conference of the States Parties three years ago.



We hope future consultations on Article XI, led by our new facilitator Ms Khaleefah, are constructive and successful in advancing a common approach in promoting the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this very important article of the Convention.

In closing, I would like to request that the full text of this statement be circulated as an official document of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the OPCW public website and external server.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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