



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

METHODS ADOPTED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

1. Cuba considers that the First Review Conference (hereinafter “the Conference”) of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) is the perfect forum for an examination of how the Convention has been implemented in the six years since this international legal instrument came into force.
2. In this respect, the Conference should facilitate the examination of how the Convention has been implemented, and of the measures which have been adopted to ensure compliance therewith.
3. Cuba’s experience in implementing the provisions of the Convention, briefly stated herein, may be of use to other countries where conditions are similar to ours, and which do not possess chemical weapons.
4. Cuba played an active part in the whole process of negotiating the Convention within the framework of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament, and became, on 13 January 1993, one of the first signatories of this important international instrument.
5. Cuba began preparations for ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Convention immediately after signing it, and some years before ratifying it on 29 April 1997.
6. The national agencies most involved established in 1993 a system of coordination which allowed the country to set the preparation process in motion. A general assessment was conducted of the position of Cuba’s chemical industry, and even test inspections were carried out.
7. The year 1997 witnessed the first steps in the passing of a set of legislative and administrative measures to ensure compliance with the provisions of the Convention.
8. In terms of Agreement 3150 of the Executive Council of Ministers, dated 26 April 1997, the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment was appointed National Authority under Article VII of the Convention, and the minimum



- requirements essential for compliance with the Convention were approved, until definitive norms could be issued.
9. These norms were passed on 24 December 1999, under Decree Law 202 “On the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction”. This is the highest-level legislative provision implementing the Convention in Cuba.
 10. In the course of this year, 2003, a number of provisions complementary to Decree Law 202 have been passed. These are:
 - (a) Resolution 15/2003 of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment, entitled “Regulation for national inspections and support for international inspections”; and
 - (b) Resolution 32/2003 of the same Ministry, entitled “Regulation for the implementation of the national system of controlling chemical substances covered by the Chemical Weapons Convention, the granting of licences and permits, and the handling of information”.
 11. As early as 14 October 1997, Resolution No. 52 of the National Statistics Office had been passed; this modified the Nomenclature of the Harmonised System of Product Classification, incorporating in an annex the modifications corresponding to the new groups assigned to the chemicals listed in the Convention.
 12. The Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment established on 24 July 1998 the Executive Centre for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (CEANPAQ), which has ever since been the executive organ of the Cuban National Authority.
 13. Law 93, Against Acts of Terrorism, passed on 24 December 2001, provides very severe penalties for offences connected to acts of terrorism, including the use of chemical agents.
 14. Furthermore, Cuba has adopted up-to-date procedures for handling OPCW-related confidential material. These are endorsed in such legislative instruments as Decree Law 199 of 25 November 1999 and Resolution No. 1 of 26 December 2000.
 15. In accordance with the provisions of Article VII of the Convention, Cuba has duly informed the OPCW of these and other legislative and administrative measures adopted to ensure compliance with the Convention.
 16. As part of the measures adopted by Cuba to comply with the provisions of the Convention, Cuba has also, each year, within the deadlines set, presented its annual declarations on past and future industrial activities.
 17. These declarations are scrupulously drawn up on the basis of a national system of monitoring overseen by the National Authority.

18. In harmony with the interest which Cuba has always had in promoting the Convention and facilitating the exchange of experience among different countries, including those which have neither signed nor ratified the Convention, Cuba has, jointly with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, organised two Regional Seminars on the Convention, held in Havana in 1995 and 2000 respectively.
19. In response to an invitation from the Cuban government, the Director-General of the OPCW visited Cuba in 2000, which helped to strengthen even more the relations between our country and the OPCW.
20. The Cuban national authority has been developing direct contacts with the national authorities of other countries, which has proved to be a useful way of exchanging experience and information of mutual interest.
21. As an exceptional measure, and to comply with the provisions of the Convention, the government of Cuba authorised the issue of special, multiple-entry visas, valid for two years, to inspectors appearing on the current OPCW list, and granted them all the relevant privileges and immunities.
22. At the beginning of April of this year, Cuba was the object of an OPCW inspection at a declared facility. The inspection was conducted in a constructive atmosphere, and the inspectors were able to verify that the provisions of the Convention are indeed being satisfactorily complied with.
23. Cuba reaffirms firstly its commitment to the continued application and reinforcement of the national measures necessary to ensure compliance with the Convention, and secondly its positive attitude to cooperating in, and promoting, the exchange of information and experience with other States Parties, the more easily to achieve this objective.