

## **Workshop on Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention**

### **Opening Remarks by Amb. Hamid Ali Rao, Deputy Director-General of the OPCW**

**The Hague  
22 November 2016**

*Excellencies,  
Distinguished participants,  
Dear colleagues,*

On behalf of the Director-General and my own, I warmly welcome you to today's workshop on Article XI.

The workshop aims to further strengthen our Member States' efforts in relation to the implementation of Article XI and I am pleased to note a broad participation and interest in this workshop.

The discussions leading to the organisation of this event had underlined the importance that Member States and relevant stakeholders have attached to Article XI of the Convention.

I trust that today's deliberations will lead to concrete proposals and facilitate in further enhancing the implementation of Article XI.

Economic and technological development through peaceful uses of chemistry remains paramount to our Member States.

In this regard, the OPCW continues to work to support the requirements of Member States through provision of international cooperation activities.

The main objectives of our international cooperation programmes are aimed at developing and building national capacity; promoting exchange of scientific and technical knowledge and capabilities; and promoting international cooperation in the areas of peaceful chemistry.

Through these activities, the OPCW not only promotes the peaceful uses of chemistry, but also works to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

This also contributes to Member States' capacity and ability to respond to threats posed by non-state actors.

You would recall that the importance of international cooperation and capacity building activities under Article XI was reiterated by the Third Review Conference of the Convention in 2013, revitalising the commitment of our Member States to this process and their determination to fully implement the provisions of Article XI.

Since then, the Organisation's activities under Article XI have continued to strengthen confidence in the CWC regime and have encouraged greater compliance with its obligations.

*Excellencies, distinguished participants,*

Setting the scene for today's workshop, it is worth noting the achievements of our past discussions, taking stock of results and moving to address existing challenges.

A major milestone was reached when the Conference of States Parties (CSP) adopted the decision C-14/DEC.11 at its 14<sup>th</sup> session in 2009, calling for a workshop and exchange of ideas between States Parties to "explore, identify and develop concrete measures on the full implementation of Article XI".

A workshop was organised in November 2010, which generated very useful ideas and suggestions that provided important substance for a subsequent decision adopted by the CSP in 2011 on "Components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI".

This decision constitutes the basis of the review process we are undertaking today to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of Article XI.

In order to facilitate the implementation of this decision, the Technical Secretariat has organised four regional workshops in Asia, GRULAC, Eastern Europe and Africa between 2012 and 2013.

These workshops provided opportunities for participants from Member States to share their national and regional priorities, to propose potential actions in support of the implementation of Article XI and to suggest how these initiatives might be developed.

The regional approach was complimented in November 2014 with a global workshop held here at the OPCW HQ, which helped sum up the regional needs and the recommendations on how to respond to those needs.

These recommendations have provided the guidelines to the Technical Secretariat in the implementation of Article XI and were used in designing and conducting international cooperation activities as well as for future planning.

The Secretariat will continue to work closely with Member States in facilitating the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

I hope that this event will provide a platform for exchanging views and ideas and firmly believe that today's discussions will strengthen our joint efforts in implementing the key principles of the Convention.

I wish you a fruitful discussion and look forward to your continuous support and contributions.

Thank you for your attention.