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CUBA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ZELMYS MARÍA DOMÍNGUEZ CORTINA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Madam Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation welcomes you again to your position of Chair of the Executive Council, which we are sure you will lead with your characteristic experience and professionalism.

Cuba fully associates itself with the statement made by His Excellency Mr Kazem Gharib Abadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on behalf of the members of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, in which their positions, which we share, are clearly expressed.

We believe that the recently concluded Third Review Conference had a successful outcome, with the best possible result under the present circumstances.

The final document that was adopted will be an indispensable instrument to guide the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the actions of the States Parties over the next few years. Not one pertinent topic was omitted from the document, and on each of these topics the Conference adopted a clear stance; this Council should not change that.

It is the duty of all to ensure that the final agreements reached help to consolidate and strengthen the implementation of the Convention.

Cuba asserts that the fundamental principle of the organisation of the follow-up to the Third Review Conference has to be to maintain the necessary balance in the analysis of all the topics discussed.

Conscious of the challenges which the OPCW must face, Cuba believes that the future of this Organisation must be oriented around the absolute achievement of the object and purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



A decision must be adopted on the future development of the OPCW within its policy-making organs, as a result of an exhaustive, transparent, inclusive and comprehensive deliberation process, based on consensus.

The destruction of all categories of chemical weapons, as one of the fundamental objectives of the OPCW, must be achieved within the shortest possible time, in accordance with the pertinent decisions approved by the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and the Sixty-Seventh Session of the Executive Council, in order to avoid a serious risk to the credibility and integrity of the Convention.

My delegation would like to emphasise that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is essential for the achievement of the object and purpose of the Convention. However, this matter is still outstanding.

Cuba would have preferred the final document of the recently concluded Review Conference to have made specific reference to the need to adopt, without further delay, a plan of action to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Nevertheless, we consider that the final agreed text and the prominence of this subject during the Third Review Conference did in the end establish the necessary conditions under which to begin to discuss in depth the aforementioned plan of action within the framework of this Organisation.

Allow me to conclude, Madam Chairperson, by emphasising the willingness of the Cuban delegation to work in an active and constructive manner with you and the other delegations. I can assure you once again that you may rely on the full support and cooperation of Cuba.

I should also like to take this opportunity, at the last Executive Council session under your chairmanship, to thank you for all your efforts and commitment, and to wish you success.

I request that this statement be distributed as an official document of the Executive Council.

Thank you very much.