



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

**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  
ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI**

Madam Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation appreciates the inclusion of this item on the agenda of this session of the Executive Council.

We should also like to thank the facilitator, Mr Aamir Shouket of Pakistan, for his presentation and his dedication in fulfilling the mandate for this important matter.

As far as Cuba is concerned, the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention is a highly sensitive matter and a priority. A considerable number of States Parties have reiterated in various fora of this Organisation the importance that they attribute to this Article, and have conveyed the need to progress in this task, which is still outstanding.

It is well known that my delegation considers that the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties on elements of an agreed framework for the full application of Article XI represents a starting point for the complete implementation of this pillar of the Convention, but it is not enough, which is why we believe that broader discussions are needed in order to analyse concrete measures and recommendations which might be proposed by delegations to achieve the full and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article.

During the Third Review Conference, the Non-Aligned Movement and China submitted a working document with a proposal for a plan of action for the achievement of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article. Sufficient time must be set aside to discuss this document during the facilitation process, along with other proposals which may be submitted by delegations with a view to adopting a decision. The continued deferral of this plan cannot be justified as long as unilateral measures are applied which limit, restrict and even prohibit free trade and transfer among States Parties of substances, equipment, and information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

We consider it urgent that the facilitation process is continued and its results reported to the Executive Council, and this ought to be reflected in the final report of this session of the Council.



Cuba has always maintained a flexible and constructive stance within this Organisation and has always joined the consensus in the interests of making progress by consensus in the full and effective implementation of the entire Convention.

Cuba wishes to take this opportunity to highlight the efforts of the facilitator and the Technical Secretariat in the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, and reiterates its commitment to contributing in this respect with all delegations, in an inclusive, flexible, transparent and constructive manner.

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

Thank you very much.

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