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**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR ROBERT P. MIKULAK  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
TO THE OPCW  
AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
ON PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE**

Mr Chairman, in this session, the Executive Council inaugurates a new practice: to have focused discussions on particular aspects of the Convention. We start with Economic and Technological Development – Article XI, and will continue with National Implementation Measures – Article VII – and Assistance and Protection – Article X - at our next Council session in July. My delegation approaches this initiative with an open mind. We hope that these focused discussions will serve to deepen our commitment to our collective aspirations and individual obligations as States Parties to the Convention.

I would like to thank the facilitator for Article XI, Mr Tariq Karim, for his work and our colleagues in the Technical Secretariat for their very active efforts to strengthen international cooperation, as reflected in the very helpful briefing by the Director of International Cooperation and Assistance, Mr Mark Albon.

Our collective aspirations are reflected in the preamble of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and include our desire to contribute to the realisation of the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. Our general obligations as individual States Parties are laid out in the very first article of the Convention, and are focused on chemical weapons disarmament, which constitutes the paramount goal of the Convention.

My delegation is proud of the U.S. record in promoting all aspects of the Convention, including those that do not relate directly to disarmament. 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. 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.

Let me highlight just three examples of programmes that the U.S. Government continues to organise and fund in implementing its commitment under Article XI, which help to build capacity in the participating countries:



First, I want to highlight the Chemical Security Engagement Program, which aims to reduce the global chemical threat by promoting chemical safety and security in the academic, industrial, and governmental sectors. Since 2007, the U.S. Government has invested more than USD 56 million in the programme, including substantial voluntary funding for OPCW activities. For the fiscal year 2014, over USD 14.5 million is budgeted. The Chemical Security Engagement Program is engaged in Iraq, Yemen, Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, Lebanon, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Second, the WMD Commodity Identification Training programme assists in preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical weapons and their delivery systems, by training customs officers. During the fiscal year 2013, the U.S. Government invested USD 3.1 million to hold these workshops in 27 countries for 900 export control enforcement officers.

Third, the U.S. Government works in partnership with Seeding Labs, an NGO that helps developing countries to obtain new and used laboratory equipment through donations. Seeding Labs has transferred almost USD 2.1 million to 31 institutions in 21 countries. An estimated 15,000 students and scientists will have access to this equipment this year. Eighteen departments at 17 universities are in the pipeline for 2014 to receive an estimated USD 1.5 million worth of equipment. Just last month, in February, Seeding Labs delivered a shipment of laboratory equipment to the Department of Biochemistry at University of Yaoundé in Cameroon. The shipment included a mass spectrometer, HPLC and flash chromatography apparatuses, and equipment for DNA amplification and analysis.

In addition, let me also mention that many thousands of students from developing countries are receiving training in the United States of America in fields that will contribute directly to the development and application of chemistry for peaceful purposes in their countries.

Unlike other aspects of our Convention, 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 members of this Council have already repeatedly considered and on which consensus clearly cannot be reached, like an Action Plan on Article XI, is not helpful in advancing a common approach to Article XI. 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 more than two years ago by the Conference of the States Parties.

In closing, I would like to request that the full text of this statement be circulated as an official document of the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Council and posted on the OPCW public website. Thank you, Mr Chairman.