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CUBA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ZELMYS DOMÍNGUEZ CORTINA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION**

Mr Chairman,

The delegation of Cuba would like to thank the facilitator, Mr Tariq Karim, for his work and for the report presented. It would also like to recognise the work of the Technical Secretariat in support of the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, despite not having much available in the way of human and financial resources, and particularly because of the presentation made during this session of the Council.

Our thanks go also to those States which have made voluntary contributions to support the implementation of such an important Article of the Convention. At the same time, we insist on the need for the resources necessary for that implementation to be a part of the Organisation's regular budget.

Cuba has systematically stressed that the full, effective, non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI must be comprehensive and, thus, must address multiple aspects of the topic.

As is known, the decision adopted on this matter, at the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties, refers only to specific components within a framework agreed for the full implementation of Article XI, and Cuba considers that, to arrive at an evaluation of the status of the implementation of that Article, due account must be taken not only of the matters addressed by the said decision, but also others that are very relevant and which have been the subject of discussion in various fora.

We firmly support continuing to implement programmes which would go on contributing to the fostering of the interchange of knowledge among the States. At the same time, we consider it appropriate to continue to seek formulas which would allow us to assess, as effectively as possible, the real impact of such programmes on the economic and technological development of the States Parties.

One of the measures contained in the said Article XI decision is to facilitate the acquisition of equipment and technology to the States. Regrettably, up until now, due attention has not been paid to transferring or donating to developing countries, although this does happen in



other international organisations. Nor does this aspect seem to figure in the work plan of the Technical Secretariat for 2014.

Our delegation insists that it should be borne in mind that, where countries do not have modern laboratories and essential equipment, the knowledge and experience acquired through courses, workshops and cooperation programmes will have little impact on their economic and technological development. It must be recalled that the transfer of technology in the field of chemistry, without discrimination or restrictions additional to those established by the Convention, is a right that States Parties have in terms of this multilateral disarmament treaty.

Cuba expresses its satisfaction at the recent presentation in informal consultations of the proposal by the members the Non of-Aligned Movement of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China of an action plan for the full, effective, non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

We feel that the conditions now exist to hold in-depth discussions among all the States Parties, to achieve a mechanism like this, which would allow us to follow up on the implementation of this Article—as is done with other Articles of the Convention. We trust that negotiations will start immediately after this session of the Council, and that it will be possible to report on the progress of the same during forthcoming sessions of the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties, so that the appropriate decisions may be taken on this matter, at the appropriate times.

We appeal to all the delegations to become involved in this process in a serious, flexible constructive, manner having in mind the lofty character of the theme of international cooperation and the importance it has for many of the Member States of this Organisation. The delegation of Cuba repeats its commitment in this regard.

I should be obliged, Mr Chairman, if this statement could be circulated as an official document the Seventy-Fifth Session of the Executive Council.

Many thanks.

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