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**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY THE CUBAN DELEGATION TO THE OPCW  
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES  
PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

Cuba is participating in this special session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention in defence of multilateralism and international cooperation, as it is convinced that these are the means to preserve international peace and security.

We reiterate the pressing need to achieve progress via general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and total elimination of weapons of mass destruction and, within that context, the destruction of all chemical weapons in accordance with the obligations of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My country consistently complies with the provisions of the Convention and firmly rejects the use of chemical weapons by anyone, under any circumstances. We are convinced of the importance of completely ruling out any possibility that chemical weapons might be used, and we reiterate that the provisions of the Convention provide the legal framework and the procedures necessary to ensure that every State Party is able to request clarifications regarding compliance with said tool.

The risk of a connection between terrorism and chemical weapons gives rise to legitimate concerns for the international community, and we share those concerns. The full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention is the sole guarantee that they will not fall into irresponsible hands.

Meanwhile, the contributions of the OPCW to the fight against terrorism must not in any way extend beyond the mandate of the Convention, and depend now more than ever on the efforts of the States Parties to resolve unsettled matters regarding implementation. The gaps identified in fulfilling top priority objectives, such as the difficulties in completing the destruction of a possessor State's arsenal, or the wide disparity in levels of national implementation, should be resolved in the soonest possible time.

Cuba rejects approaches that are selective, non-transparent, and politically motivated when it comes to the implementation of the Convention and the establishment of mechanisms and procedures that extend beyond its scope.



An accusation against a State Party, without the necessary professional investigations and conclusions based on the experience and technical knowledge of the OPCW, is inadmissible. Cuba opposes any distorted interpretation of the Convention. The imposition of any initiative of this nature lacks legitimacy and will weaken the credibility and relevance of the OPCW due to its negative political and legal consequences for the States Parties. The establishment of negative precedents obstructs the search for solutions that are acceptable to all.

The primary role of the States Parties to an international treaty cannot be undermined by other international actors whose roles are complementary. The competencies of international organisations are established in their founding documents, such as international treaties, that are negotiated and ratified by the States at the national level.

The tools conceived by the negotiators of the Convention to eliminate and prevent any possible violation are stipulated in the text of this international Convention. The Convention clearly establishes that cases of a grave violation thereof are to be brought directly to the attention of the General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council, complete with relevant information and conclusions (paragraph 36 of Article VIII).

The OPCW was conceived as a purely technical Organisation, and it should continue to be that. This understanding is reflected in, among other places, the documents of the Third Review Conference, which took place in 2013.

The States Parties to the Convention still have important obligations to fulfill and perfect with regard to implementation. These range from general obligations in the sphere of activities not prohibited by the Convention, national implementation measures, and assistance and protection against chemical weapons, to international cooperation in general, including economic and technological development.

As such, it is appropriate that the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW continue to provide the assistance and cooperation necessary for States Parties to achieve the important objectives of the Convention.

For its part, the Fourth Review Conference, which will be taking place this year, is the ideal venue for addressing compliance with the Convention and to consider its future challenges. The preparations for it, and its results, will be of the utmost importance for all, and we should not see them affected by the actions we may take.

I reiterate that for Cuba, cooperation should prevail over confrontation. Thank you.