

**CUBA****STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
ARTICLE XI****UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(L)**

The Republic of Cuba reiterates the importance of the implementation and follow up by States Parties of all the provisions and pillars of the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter “the Convention”), in a balanced manner, including those relating to the economic and technological development. The full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is fundamental to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention and to preserve its integrity in the future.

The implementation of the Economic and Technological Development (Article XI) is a cross-cutting element of growing importance. It requires full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation, in order to preserve the compliance with all provisions of the Convention by States Parties, and to maintain the foremost role of the OPCW, now and in the future, in considering that the achievements in the field of chemistry should be used exclusively for the benefit of mankind.

The implementation of Article XI could bring tangible benefits to all States Parties and we encourage them to assume a more active and committed role in its implementation. Article XI deserves the same level of attention as other Articles in the Convention.

Article XI should be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic and technological development of States Parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for the purposes not prohibited under the Convention.

Article XI has been, per se, a strong incentive for the accession to the Convention by a large number of States that have an interest in developing the field of chemistry for the purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the fullest transfer of technology, chemicals, and scientific information.

The appropriate consideration of the economic and technological development in the OPCW’s policy-making organs (PMO) should be encouraged in the near future, taking into account the lack of new relevant decisions in this regard during the last years. The relevance



of the ideas that emerged during the four workshops¹ (the first workshop on November 2010, the second on November 2016, the third on November 2017, and the last one on May 2018) related to the full implementation of Article XI should be considered in the future, including the necessity of establishing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of Article XI, involving all States Parties, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), and using the lessons learned through the implementation of action plans for other articles of the Convention.

The Cuban proposal on establishing a mechanism² for evaluation of Article XI implementation intends to promote the debate in the OPCW’s PMO, which could include, among others, the following elements:

- (a) Do States Parties consider that is it necessary to establish a mechanism within the OPCW for the evaluation of the effectiveness in the implementation of programmes on Article XI?
- (b) In the views of States Parties, which are the main characteristics that should have this mechanism?
- (c) Some elements to be considered could be:
 - (i) structure of the mechanism and its general characteristics, methods, and programme of work;
 - (ii) role of the parties involved (States Parties, the Secretariat, advisory bodies, academic institutions, representatives of the chemical industry from international organisations, among others); and
 - (iii) national measures for the implementation of Article XI.
- (d) What are the main actions or activities at the national, regional, or multilateral level that could be defined for the implementation of all the provisions on Article XI?
- (e) What are the points of view of the States Parties on the most adequate ways within the OPCW to spread information on the implementation of Article XI? In this context, it is appropriate that the presentation of opinions on the alternatives could be taken into account. Some of them could be:
 - (i) creation of a database of voluntary cooperation offers from States Parties, including the availability of equipment and materials to be donated or offered at special prices by the OPCW and the States Parties, and specific requests for international cooperation;

¹ “Review and evaluation Workshop of the Components on an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation on Article XI”.

² This proposal has been presented in the National Paper circulated for the Cuban delegation during the Eighty-Fifth session of the Executive Council in July 2017 (EC-85/NAT.13, dated 12 July 2017).

- (ii) development of materials promoting new opportunities, exchange of experiences, chemical safety, and other areas of international cooperation; and
- (iii) other relevant issues concerning the full implementation of Article XI.

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