



OPCW

Review Conference

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ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CUBA

**ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED BY THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA FOR THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONVENTION ON THE PROHIBITION OF THE
DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING AND USE OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS AND ON THEIR DESTRUCTION: MAY 2013 TO OCTOBER 2018
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9**

1. The Republic of Cuba was one of the initial signatories to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”) on 13 January 1993 and later ratified it on 29 April 1997. In accordance with its positions on principles in the field of general and complete disarmament, Cuba reiterates its firm support for the prohibition and elimination of all weapons of mass destruction under strict and effective international control.
2. Since the Third Review Conference, Cuba has presented six national documents, including the following: C-20/NAT.13, C-22/NAT.26, EC-85/NAT.12, and EC-85/NAT.13, which have focussed on promoting the economic and technological development of the States in line with Article XI of the Convention, as well as the development of all of the aspects of international cooperation. Likewise, the active participation of and the contributions made by Cuba from 2013 to 2018 in various areas within the Organisation—such as the work to facilitate Article XI, three workshops held for the evaluation of the implementation thereof, as well as the Open-Ended Working Group on the Future Priorities of the Convention and the Open-Ended Working Group on Preparations for the Fourth Review Conference—demonstrate Cuba’s permanent commitment to the Organisation and to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all of the Convention’s provisions.
3. Cuba believes that the Fourth Review Conference is the best place to examine how the Convention has been implemented over the past five years since the Third Review Conference in 2013.
4. Cuba’s experiences and advances in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention since its entry into force have been presented in the above-specified documents within the framework of the various scenarios within the Organisation and its policy-making organs. In continuation, I will briefly summarise the main activities that were carried out since the Third Review Conference toward implementing the



Convention, as well as other activities aimed at a deeper knowledge of this international treaty within the country.

- a) During this period, Cuba was the subject of two OPCW inspections: two discrete organic chemicals production facilities were inspected in a constructive manner; these inspections made it possible to test the field of satisfactory implementation of the Convention's provisions.
 - b) Since 2005, Cuba has had in place comprehensive legislation for the implementation of the Convention in line with its provisions. Nevertheless, during the period of 2013–2018, the following actions were taken to improve the national measures of implementation in line with Article VII of the Convention:
 - i) Systematic procedures for handling confidential information received from the OPCW were updated in Decree Law number 199, dated 25 November 1999 and Resolution 1, dated 26 December 2000, and the OPCW Technical Secretariat was informed thereof.
 - ii) Decree Law number 309 (2013) on Chemical Security was adopted to strengthen the safe and secure management of chemical products and the facilities associated with these products in the field of security.
5. Among the other activities since the Third Review Conference, the National Authority of the Republic of Cuba highlights the following:
- a) The timely submission to the OPCW Technical Secretariat of annual anticipated and past activities with scheduled chemicals. Since 2008, the National Authority has submitted declarations of past activities electronically using the EDNA system.
 - b) The annual and timely submission to the Technical Secretariat of the information corresponding to the approved form on the programme for the Protection Against Chemical Weapons in accordance with paragraph 4 of Article X of the Convention.
 - c) The annual response to the OPCW Technical Secretariat on handling confidential information received from the OPCW and the supporting standards in compliance with paragraph 4 of the Confidentiality Annex to the Convention and related updates as necessary.
 - d) The response to the OPCW Technical Secretariat's survey on the implementation of decision C-14/DEC.4 (2 December 2009): Guidelines regarding low-concentration limits for declarations of Schedule 2A and 2A* chemicals, which the Republic of Cuba completed in line with said decision.
 - e) The response to the OPCW Technical Secretariat's 2017 survey on the implementation of national measures relative to stockpiling and declaration of information on the import and export of Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals.

- f) Participation in the Mentoring Programme: in 2014, experts from the Cuban National Authority assisted the National Authority of Paraguay in implementation of the Convention, in addition to exchanging experience. In 2017, experts from the Cuban National Authority provided similar assistance to the Plurinational State of Bolivia and exchanged experience in national implementation of the Convention.
 - g) In October 2014, a regional course on the medical aspects of assistance and protection against chemical weapons for States Parties in Latin America and the Caribbean was organised in Havana, Cuba, in coordination with the Assistance and Protection Branch of the OPCW Technical Secretariat.
 - h) The official visit to the Republic of Cuba by H.E. Ahmet Üzümcü, the then Director-General of the OPCW, per the invitation of the Cuban Government; this visit contributed to the further strengthening of our country's relations with the Organisation.
 - i) The commemoration in 2017 of the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention. A programme of activities was developed, which among other things included a training course for national inspectors, national seminars and workshops on assistance and protection, and concluded with an activity that was central to the Cuban United Nations Association, where recognition was given to the work of Cuban experts, former members of the OPCW Technical Secretariat, and the institutions that have worked with the National Authority toward the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. The annex to this document details other activities that were carried out in connection with this important event.
 - j) National workshops were held on education and outreach on the responsible use of scheduled chemicals in the Convention and other dangerous chemicals (2016 and 2017), with the participation of 17 different bodies with some connection to the subject matter, and with the objective of promoting the ethical use of chemicals for peaceful purposes.
6. Over this period, Cuban experts were designated members of the subsidiary bodies of the Conference. Among others, these include: the appointment of Dr Isel Pascual Alonso as a member of the Scientific Advisory Board and Mr Jesús María Cuevillas Domínguez as a member of the Confidentiality Commission of the OPCW.
7. The National Authority of the Republic of Cuba expresses its gratitude to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW for facilitating the participation of Cuban experts in the courses, workshops, seminars, and work meetings that had been organised, including those that were organised by States Parties in coordination with the Organisation's Technical Secretariat in important areas such as: assistance and protection, inspections and declarations under Article VI, chemical security, databases, and the development of analytical activities. Likewise, it recognises the participation of the heads of the National Authority and Cuban experts at the regional and annual meetings of the National Authorities, which has made it possible to broaden the exchange of experience with representatives of other States Parties in the national implementation of the Convention.

Annex

On the additional national activities of the Republic of Cuba marking the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention in 2017

30 January – 3 February: The 2017 Pedagogical Congress. The Ministry of Education included a topic on the importance of the Convention in the programme for the event, which took place in Havana. The Congress participants discussed this matter at Symposium 7: quality technical and professional training and its contribution to the country's socioeconomic development, and Symposium 10: environmental education for sustainable development.

6 February: A seminar on OPCW courses. This seminar provided a space for the discussion and sharing of the results of various courses organised by the OPCW in which members of the Cuban National Authority participated. New experiences, knowledge, and recommendations were shared with the aim of broadening national impact and implementation. This seminar was attended by Dr Isel Pascual, a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the OPCW.

16 March: The second national workshop on education and outreach on the responsible use of chemical products. This workshop addressed the progress achieved in the field since the first workshop in 2016, and encouraged all institutions to engage in education and outreach in the responsible use of chemical products. Representatives of a variety of Cuban institutions discussed these issues.

24 March: Day of Protection Against Chemical Weapons. This was a preparatory and preventative exercise organised by the National Center for Chemical Security aimed at preparing personnel and minimising human and material damages caused by chemical weapons.

19 April and 21 November: A workshop on health and safety in the workplace. The two sessions in 2017 were organised by the Geomineral and Salt Production Business Group of the Cuban Ministry of Energy and Mining. Among other matters, the agendas of these workshops included chemical security within the framework of the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

24 April: The publication of an official press note commemorating the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

28 April: The central event of the twentieth anniversary of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The National Authority of Cuba for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention organised a solemn ceremony to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention. Important figures from and representatives of different institutions in the country directly related to the implementation of the Convention attended the event. During the event, the following presentations were given:

- a) “The Importance of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the Disarmament”;
- b) “The Chemical Weapons Convention and the OPCW: Goals achieved”; and
- c) “The Chemical Weapons Convention and Its Implementation in Cuba”.

12 – 16 June: The VII Course of Accreditation for National Inspectors and Escort Teams. For this round, the course specifically covered the anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Additionally, the following events were held jointly by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Higher Education of the Republic of Cuba:

- a) a study of actions promoting the responsible use of chemical products at various levels of education;
- b) conferences on the importance of the Convention, including achievements and ongoing implementation issues in the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW);
- c) promotion of addressing the subject matter in integrated assignments in a variety of educational activities, such as spheres of interest, scientific communities, and forums for students of science;
- d) introduction of the subject matter in the process of improving education within the country;
- e) conducting some overhauls of educational centres specifically concerning the existence of chemical products and the rigorous application of security measures; and
- f) preparatory courses for technical laboratory experts.