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CUBA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SORAYA ALVAREZ NUÑEZ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATES PARTIES**

UNDER AGENDA ITEM 16

Mr Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation appreciates the report with reference C-23/DG.11 EC-89/DG.20 (dated 14 September 2018) presented by the Director-General on the advances made in the implementation of Article XI of the Convention during the period between 26 August 2017 and 25 August, 2018.

The Cuban delegation reiterates its full disposition to support the works of the new facilitator for Article XI, Mr Junaid Sadiq from Pakistan.

The Cuban delegation takes this opportunity to reiterate some elements related with the development of international cooperation in the OPCW, which we believe it is highly important to underline.

International cooperation has increasing importance in all activities and future challenges of the OPCW; it is a cross-cutting element to achieve the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of all the provisions of the Convention. It is one of the four fundamental pillars, endorsed in paragraph 9 of the Preamble of the Convention.

Report C-23/DG.11 EC-89/DG.20 proves the efforts made last year by the Organisation to substantially advance in all the aspects of international cooperation are not yet sufficient, which involves much more than capacity-building activities in the implementation of Articles VII and X of the Convention and that actions on international cooperation are required in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, with the aim of increasing technological development of all States Parties. In this sense, the implementation of Article XI demands an urgent debate within the framework of the policy-making organs to make possible the creation of a strategy that includes an Action Plan for the implementation of Article XI that allows the systematic evaluation of the needs in this field, the periodical assessment of these programmes, in order to improve its effectiveness and sustainable impact and that considers in a holistic way all the activities of international cooperation of the OPCW for the implementation of the Convention.



The fact that the Conference of States Parties has not adopted a substantive decision since 2011, contained in the document C-16/DEC.10 (dated 1 December 2011) on the implementation of Article XI, is the most obvious expression of the lack of priority the Organisation gives to this topic.

There is still a lot to do in the implementation and compliance with Article XI by the States Parties. The violation of the provisions in Article XI by the Government of the United States of America, State Party to the Convention, which has been applying unilateral measures of extraterritorial effect against Cuba for almost 60 years by means of an unjust and illegal economic, financial, and commercial blockade that hampers and prevents the free exchange of scientific and technical information, chemical substances, equipment and technology for the production, manufacturing or use of chemical substances with not prohibited purposes under the Convention. Cuba categorically rejects the maintenance of these measures.

It should be a cause of great concern for the States Parties and the OPCW, the imposition of the selectiveness and the political motivations of some States Parties in the full, effective, and non-discriminatory Compliance with the Convention.

Thank you very much.

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