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**UGANDA**

**STATEMENT BY MR JAMES EBITU  
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DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH  
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,  
Excellences,  
Distinguished delegates,

I thank you for this opportunity to make a statement on behalf of the Delegation of the Republic of Uganda.

First and foremost, we would like to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Twenty-Fourth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention. In the same spirit, my delegation would like to congratulate the entire team of the newly elected officials to this Session of the Conference.

We have taken note of the opening statement by the Director-General of the OPCW on the activities of the Organisation, and we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the professional manner and passion with which he is managing the affairs of the Organisation.

My delegation fully aligns itself and is in full support of the Statement of the African Group and the Statement of the States Parties to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China. Uganda would like to implore this Twenty-Fourth Conference to uphold the Chemical Weapons Convention in its entirety and ensure a balanced implementation of its provisions by all States Parties. Uganda attaches great importance to the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention and would like to call upon States that are not yet Party to the Convention to ratify or accede and fully implement its provisions.

My Delegation further, would like to stress that the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals anywhere by anyone is contrary to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and those found to be responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable. Uganda considers the destruction of chemical weapons as a commitment of every State Party to the Convention. Whereas 96% of the chemical weapons stockpiles declared have been destroyed, we would like to recommend the complete destruction of all remaining chemical weapons stockpiles as soon as possible.

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Reissued for technical reasons.



Mr Chairperson, Uganda appreciates the ongoing exchange of knowledge, skills, and capacity-building programmes that promote the safe use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. My delegation looks forward to the outcome of the discussions of the Executive Council and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW on the implementation of the proposed fifth phase of the Africa Programme. The Conference should recognise the need for allocation of more resources to the Africa Programme to ensure its success.

Uganda does not possess, produce or have stockpiles of chemical weapons. However the support from the Technical Secretariat in the implementation of the Africa Programme has continued to infuse the necessary skills and capacity building within the implementation of the Convention which will assist my country in its economic development.

Since 2015 Uganda has each year hosted the East African community chemical emergency response, planning and management mechanism. The Operational training targets participants from the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention from the East African community region namely Burundi, Kenya, United Republic of Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda. The objective of the training is to equip the participants with knowledge and skills in handling emergencies involving toxic chemicals.

In this regard, Uganda hosted members from States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention from the East African region for the fourth operational training in emergency response to chemical incident or attack from 30 September to 10 October 2019 in Jinja, Uganda. This training is in line with capacity-building initiative for the region to provide future trainings within the region using the pool of experts trained under this programme.

My delegation commends the OPCW, especially the Assistance and Protection Branch, the United Kingdom and the Czech Republic for their financial and technical support to the project in making this essential mechanism a reality for the East African community region.

Uganda will continue to support the East African community project and other OPCW initiatives. My delegation wishes to recommend that under the new fifth phase of the Africa Programme, the Technical Secretariat continues to supplement existing commitments that enhance national capacities for the implementation of the Convention, develop tailor-made assistance and protection activities, support the establishment of designated laboratories, and the peaceful uses of chemistry.

My delegation supports the need for equitable geographical and gender representation in the professional ranks of the Organisation and a fair and transparent employment/recruitment of personnel in the Technical Secretariat.

In conclusion Mr Chairperson, Uganda is fully committed to its obligations under the Convention and encourages States Parties to work towards achieving consensus and a successful conclusion of the Conference. I thank you for your kind attention.

I would like to request that this statement be published as an official document of this session.