



Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI

Welcome address by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms Odette Melono

10 November 2021, Online

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I warmly welcome you to Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI.

This event provides an opportunity for States Parties to reinvigorate and reaffirm their commitment to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

It also allows for State Parties and relevant stakeholders to review progress achieved to-date, exchange ideas, and provide further guidance on international cooperation and capacity building activities under Article XI.

Your presence and the level of participation today confirms the continued importance and relevance of this Workshop.

As we set the stage for this Workshop today, let us all remind ourselves of the contents of the decision of the Sixteenth Session of the CSP dated 1 December 2011 under C-16/DEC.10 “Components of an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI”.

It speaks to national capacity building, promoting networking, enhancing the effectiveness of current international cooperation programmes, and facilitating international exchange and cooperation.

It continues to motivate and guide our work today towards realising the full benefits of Article XI.

I trust that your deliberations today will help in re-doubling our collective efforts towards the full implementation of Article XI, which, underpins one of the four pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Fulfilling the provisions of Article XI remains crucial to boosting national implementation, promoting chemistry for development, supporting the exchange of scientific and technological knowledge, and facilitating international cooperation.

The Secretariat of the OPCW remains firmly committed to supporting the needs and requirements of States Parties in this regard.

Through these activities and more, the Secretariat also helps in building capacity and the ability of States Parties to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past year, the Secretariat has adapted to the unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic by using innovative online and hybrid mechanisms to deliver its capacity building programmes and activities to advance the implementation of Article XI.

Since our last Workshop in November 2020, the Secretariat successfully organised 23 Article XI online capacity building programmes, including training activities, workshops, and seminars, with a total of about 900 participants from 118 States Parties.

The Secretariat also supported 13 fellowships and three conferences.

Some of the recent notable achievements under the framework of Article XI include the launch of “Indicative Guidelines for Chemical Safety and Security in Small and Medium-sized Enterprises”.

These non-binding guidelines are the first of their kind and are designed to support States Parties in strengthening chemical safety and security best practices.

Also, this year, through being engaged under an OPCW capacity building project funded by the United Kingdom, a laboratory in Brazil succeeded in securing the OPCW designated status, becoming the first laboratory in the GRULAC region to achieve this goal. I seize this opportunity to thank the United Kingdom for this important contribution, and to congratulate the Brazilian laboratory for having secured this status. This represents a concrete illustration of the use and necessity of international cooperation related activities.

The Secretariat will continue to spare no efforts in encouraging, supporting, facilitating, and guiding States Parties towards ensuring full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

I am confident that together, with your active engagement and valuable inputs, we will achieve our goal, and thus strengthen the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention as a whole.

I look forward to your deliberations and wish the Workshop every success.
