



**Welcome Address** by the Deputy Director-General of the OPCW, Ms Odette Melono, at the Review and Evaluation Workshop of the Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI

14 November 2022

Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

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

It is a great pleasure to once again see so many experts here in person and online.

The purpose of this workshop is to further strengthen the implementation of Article XI, which underpins our international cooperation activities and programmes.

Our Member States have repeatedly underscored to us the importance that they attach to activities conducted under Article XI.

In fact, it is encouraging to note that each year they continue to advance and intensify their efforts to further its implementation.

Accordingly, international cooperation has and will remain as a critical area of work for the Organisation.

To this end, we have been helping the Member States to enhance their economic and technological development through our international capacity building and assistance programmes.

These programmes have the dual aims of promoting the peaceful uses of chemistry, as well as preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

As the end of destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles nears, we will broaden and deepen our focus on these areas.

Against this backdrop, Article XI will remain vital to boosting national implementation and making sure that the Convention is uniformly applied across all regions.

This workshop today is therefore a very timely and relevant one.

With just over six months to the Fifth Review Conference, today's discussions offer a valuable opportunity to take stock of the achievements of the past years.

Likewise, it is a moment to reflect on the challenges ahead and the cooperation required to meet the specific needs and expectations of Member States in the most effective way.

The Organisation's activities under Article XI, including tailored programmes under the three strategic areas of Integrated Chemicals Management, Enhancing Laboratory Capabilities, and promoting chemical knowledge, have bolstered confidence in the Convention and have encouraged greater compliance with its obligations.

The Secretariat will continue the support to its Member States as they continue to translate their commitment to the Convention into action, including by providing knowledge and expertise for the full implementation of Article XI.

In this regard, I wish to appreciate those Member States who share their expertise and resources, exchange best practices, and extend support to those countries in need.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In the spring of 2023, we will inaugurate the new Centre for Chemistry and Technology.

The ChemTech Centre will reinforce the OPCW's verification system and inspection capabilities.

But more importantly for today's discussion, it will also strengthen the capacity of the OPCW in research, analysis, training, and capacity-building for States Parties to enable them to better implement the Convention.

It will thus be a major step forward for the Secretariat in being able to meet the capacity-building needs of States Parties for the future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Since 2009, the OPCW has held eleven regional and global workshops for States Parties to share their needs and priorities and propose ideas to address them.

An important outcome has been specific recommendations, which have served as guidelines for the Secretariat with regards to Article XI implementation.

They have been used to design, conduct, evaluate and assess the impact of international cooperation activities.

I hope that today's discussions will reinforce our efforts to implement Article XI and add greater efficiency and depth to the OPCW's international cooperation activities.

I wish you a successful workshop.

Thank you for your attention.

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