

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

STATEMENT ON ARTICLE XI AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Mr. Chairperson,

Article XI has played a pivotal role in marshalling universal support for the Chemical Weapons Convention, and a full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is fundamental to achieving the objectives and purposes of the Convention. It ensures the inalienable rights of States Parties for economic and technological development, and the implementation of the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering international exchange of information, technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes.

The States Parties are accordingly expected to promote international cooperation, and not to impose any restrictions, in particular unilateral sanctions, which would restrict trade and the development of scientific and technological knowledge for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical and other peaceful purposes. Despite the efforts made to this end, it is disappointing to witness the persistent non-compliance of certain States Parties with their obligations, which affects the long term viability of the Convention.

While welcoming relevant efforts and developments, including the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology and capacity building programs by the Technical Secretariat which can enhance international cooperation and assistance, my delegation underlines the necessity of developing an Action Plan to address gaps and obstacles, particularly restrictive measures on exports, and adoption of concrete steps for full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Article XI of the Convention.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website and Catalyst portal.

Thank you Mr. Chairperson.