



REPÚBLICA DE ANGOLA

STATEMENT BY H.E MARIA ISABEL DE RESENDE ENCOGE,
AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY AND PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA TO THE OPCW
IN THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE (RC-5) FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION
HAGUE, 15 -19 MAY

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Director-General
Excellencies,
Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the delegation of the Republic of Angola, I present, Mr. Chairman, our support to your leadership of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties to Review the CWC. I am convinced that your personal and professional qualities will enable you to bring the work of this important Session to a successful conclusion.

I must also reiterate our appreciation to the Director-General for his dedication and professionalism, extended to the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat"), the Scientific Advisory Board and other Organs of our Organization for their efforts in the effective implementation of the Convention.

The OPCW plays an important role in the promotion and economic and technological growth of the States Parties, particularly for developing African States. In this way we believe that the continent, for having its own regional particularities, needs assistance initiatives adjusted to the regional context, considering the particular stage of development of each State.

We therefore take this opportunity to welcome the initiative of the sixth phase of Program-Africa and encourage the inclusion of the Portuguese language in the

different training packages and events promoted, in order to allow for greater inclusion and participation of specialists from developing African countries.

Portuguese-speaking countries in this phase of the Program, thus effectively contributing to the achievement of the recommended objectives.

In this context, Angola appeals to the States Parties to continue to fulfil their commitments to transfer technology, materials and equipment for non-prohibited purposes, in the field of chemistry, to ensure that developing countries also share the benefits of new technologies. It is in this context that the Organization and its States Parties have the important responsibility to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

Angola considers that scientific advances present a constantly changing set of challenges and opportunities for the implementation of the Convention. In particular, Artificial Intelligence, this emerging technology has the potential to strengthen the verification regime, enhance labour safety in conjunction with robotics technologies in highly toxic chemical agent exposure environments.

However, we cannot fail to mention the concern of the potential risks that Artificial Intelligence assisted chemistry may pose, challenges to be considered by the OPCW, therefore, we consider that the monitoring of this type of technology should be on the priorities for the States Parties of the Convention.

Angola encourages the ratification of the Convention without any preconditions by the four states that are not yet fully committed to the Convention, so that universality is a fact, thus banishing the dangers that chemical weapons pose to humanity.

In that spirit, we encourage the only remaining declared chemical weapons state to fulfil its commitment to destroy the remaining stockpile by the established deadlines, auguring that the year 2023 will be marked as the year that marked a world free of any declared chemical weapons stockpile.

We believe that this Session will be another important opportunity to reiterate our engagement in the mission of a world free from the threat of the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, under any circumstances and for any reason, and we therefore call on States Parties to continue to work in a spirit of unity and promote constructive dialogue to safeguard, strengthen the unity and integrity of the Organization and preserve its technical nature.

I request that this statement be considered as an official document and published on the website.

Thank you