



**BELARUS, BOLIVIA (PLURINATIONAL STATE OF), BURUNDI,  
CAMBODIA, CHINA, CUBA, THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC,  
MALAYSIA, NICARAGUA, PAKISTAN, THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION,  
THE STATE OF PALESTINE, THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC,  
VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF), AND ZIMBABWE**

**PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON PEACEFUL USES UNDER  
THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

1. It is the inalienable right of States Parties conferred by the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”) to utilise science and technology in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes and to carry out international cooperation. Article XI of the Convention stipulates that:

The provisions of this Convention shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States Parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this Convention including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under this Convention.

All Review Conferences<sup>1</sup> of the Convention have reiterated the importance of international cooperation on peaceful uses, emphasising that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI is fundamental to achieving the objectives and purposes of the Convention and to the economic and technological development of States Parties. At the Tenth, Twelfth, and Fourteenth Sessions of the Conference of the States Parties (hereinafter “the Conference”) in 2005, 2007, and 2009, respectively, three decisions on the full implementation of Article XI (C-10/DEC.14, dated 11 November 2005; C-12/DEC.10, dated 9 November 2007; and C-14/DEC.11, dated 4 December 2009) were adopted. The Conference at its Sixteenth Session in 2011 further adopted a decision entitled “Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full Implementation of Article XI” (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), which proposed measures including: strengthening national capacity building of States Parties for the research, development, storage, production, and safe use of chemicals; promoting exchanges among scientific communities, academic institutions, chemical industry associations, non-governmental organisations, and regional and international institutions; enhancing the effectiveness of international

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<sup>1</sup> Review Conference = Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.



cooperation programmes; and facilitating the exchanges of chemicals, equipment, and scientific and technical information among States Parties. It also called for providing financial support to the implementation of the above-mentioned measures and strengthening the oversight by the Conference and the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) over the implementation of international cooperation. In accordance with relevant decisions adopted by the Conference, the Council has established an open consultation mechanism for the full implementation of Article XI.

2. The Non-Aligned Movement and China have always been committed to promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses under the Convention. In 2007 and 2013, NAM and China submitted two working papers entitled “Indicative Elements of a Plan of Action on the Full Implementation of Article XI” (C-12/NAT.1, dated 6 November 2007), and “Proposal for a Plan of Action on the Full Implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention” (RC-3/NAT.13, dated 8 April 2013), calling for the formulation of a plan of action on the implementation of Article XI, and proposing basic elements for the plan. At various meetings of the Review Conference, Conference of the States Parties, and the Council, NAM and China have been repeatedly calling for strengthening international cooperation on peaceful uses in a concrete manner, including developing the above-mentioned plan of action.
3. In the 26 years since entry into force of the Convention, under the concerted efforts made by the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”), positive progress has been made in the implementation of Article XI. With a focus on three key areas including integrated chemical management, enhancement of laboratory capacities, and chemical knowledge promotion and exchange, the Secretariat has closely cooperated with States Parties, the World Customs Organization(WCO), the United Nations Environment Programme(UNEP), the International Foundation for Science (ISF), the World Health Organization(WHO), and other international and regional organisations in conducting various activities, including capacity-building programmes, workshops on Convention implementation, training courses for inspectors, assistance and protection courses against chemical weapons, laboratory twinning cooperation and associate programmes, among others. They have carried out extensive cooperation and exchanges on international cooperation, national implementation, chemical safety and security, and assistance and protection against chemical weapons, which benefits practitioners from governments, research institutions, enterprises, and laboratories of the States Parties. In addition, the Secretariat has provided important support for capacity building in African States Parties by carrying out the OPCW Programme to Strengthen Cooperation with Africa on the Chemical Weapons Convention.
4. On the other hand, international cooperation on peaceful uses in the field of chemistry still faces severe challenges. Many countries in particular developing countries, continue to face excessive and undue restrictions, including unilateral economic coercive measures in obtaining materials, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes. Certain countries have overstretched the concept of national security for ideological purposes and abused non-proliferation export control, which has seriously undermined the peaceful uses and relevant international cooperation. The formulation of the plan of action for the implementation of Article XI called for by the developing countries has yet to be achieved. Efforts fall significantly short in the implementation of the decision titled “Components of an Agreed Framework for the Full

Implementation of Article XI” adopted at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference, and no new decisions on implementing Article XI have been adopted by the Conference since 2011. The work of the OPCW is seriously polarised and politicised, and international cooperation faces challenges, such as insufficient momentum and input. These challenges have exacerbated the concerns of many countries, in particular developing countries, that the right to peaceful uses lacks guarantee and have hindered discussions on promoting peaceful uses and relevant international cooperation.

5. In 2022, the Seventy-Seventh Session the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution on Promoting International Cooperation on Peaceful Uses in the Context of International Security (hereinafter “the Resolution on Peaceful Uses” or “the Resolution”) for the second time. The Resolution stresses that the peaceful uses of science and technology are essential for sustainable development and that the right of all countries to the peaceful uses of science and technology is inalienable under international law. It urges the countries concerned to lift excessive regulations on developing countries and encourages dialogue and cooperation in this regard. The Resolution reflects the common position of the international community, especially of the developing countries. We will continue to promote the full and effective implementation of the Resolution and safeguard the common interests of the international community, and call on all countries to support the Resolution and actively participate in the follow-up process.
6. The Resolution on Peaceful Uses is in line with Article XI of the Convention as well as the relevant outcome documents of the Review Conferences and decisions of the Conference. The Resolution noted in particular that it welcomes various initiatives for promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses, including a plan of action for the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention. The full and effective implementation of the Resolution will build new consensus and give more traction to the implementation of Article XI.
7. We call on States Parties to take the opportunity of the Fifth Review Conference to combine the implementation of the Resolution on Peaceful Uses of the UN General Assembly with the planning for the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, to take into full consideration the report of the United Nations Secretary-General and the views and recommendations contained therein, which is requested by the Resolution on Peaceful Uses, to focus on the issues that have long been of concern to many countries, in particular developing countries, and to give higher priority to the issue of peaceful uses and development, so as to come up with new ideas and break new ground for the implementation of Article XI. We call on the Fifth Review Conference to:
  - (a) reiterate the political commitment to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.
  - (b) underline that under the Convention and other frameworks all States Parties shoulder disarmament and non-proliferation obligations, enjoy the right to peaceful uses of science and technology, and have the obligation to promote peaceful uses and relevant international cooperation, and that all three aspects are equally important. Further affirm that the fundamental purpose of peaceful uses of science and technology is to promote sustainable development, and that according to the spirit of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to

Development, the right to peaceful uses should be an important aspect of the inalienable right to development, and thus a basic human right that cannot be deprived.

- (c) urge all States Parties, without prejudice to their non-proliferation obligations, to take concrete measures to promote peaceful uses and international cooperation in the field of chemistry. All restrictions incompatible with the Convention, including unilateral coercive sanction measures that are contrary to the spirit of the Convention, and restrict or impede trade and promotion of science and technology for peaceful purposes, should be removed.
- (d) request the Conference to authorise the establishment of a dialogue mechanism, such as open-ended working groups, to conduct result-oriented dialogue and consultation with universal participation of States Parties on promoting peaceful uses and relevant international cooperation in the field of chemistry, including on identifying barriers, gaps, challenges, and undue restrictions as well as ideas and plans to strengthen cooperation. On this basis, request the Secretariat to provide a report on the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, especially on the barriers, gaps, challenges and undue restrictions, and submit the report to the Conference for review;
- (e) request the Council to discuss and develop concrete measures and recommendations on the full implementation of Article XI. On this basis, a feasible plan of action shall be formulated and submitted to the Conference for review. Request the Conference to establish a mechanism to review transfer denials among States Parties of chemicals, equipment, and science and technology in the field of chemistry;
- (f) encourage States Parties to adopt confidence-building measures which aim at: promoting international cooperation on peaceful uses, including reviewing their national regulations related to the transfer of chemicals, equipment, and science and technology in the field of chemistry in order to ensure their consistency with the provisions of Article XI; reviewing their measures in promoting the transfer of technology and international cooperation in the field of chemistry, and submitting reports to the Conference at regular intervals; reviewing transfer denials of chemicals, equipment, and science and technology in the field of chemistry to other States Parties, and their communication on such denials, and submitting reports to the Conference at regular intervals. In this regard, developed countries with advanced chemical industries and technologies should take the lead.
- (g) request the OPCW to ensure budgetary inputs for activities related to Article XI, which should give priority to developing countries; establish an international cooperation fund which will be managed by the Secretariat in coordination with States Parties and encourage States Parties to make contributions on a voluntary basis; support the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology in playing an important role in international cooperation.