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NGO Joint Statement:

Promoting national implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention

Statement prepared by:
Eliza Walsh, VERTIC
Alix Renaudin, VERTIC
Thomas Brown, VERTIC
Hubert Foy, AFRICSIS

Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates, CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Each State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention is required, pursuant to Article VII of the Convention, to adopt the necessary measures to fully implement its obligations under the Convention, in accordance with its constitutional processes. In particular, States Parties are required to adopt initial measures which comprise the minimum set of legislative measures including definitions under the Convention, prohibitions and penalties, a control regime for scheduled and toxic chemicals, extraterritorial jurisdiction, the establishment of a national authority and a legal basis for developing regulations. To ensure a comprehensive legal framework against the development and use of chemical weapons, States Parties should enact further measures beyond the initial measures including export, import and transfer controls, chemical safety and security measures and oversight over dual-use research, amongst other measures.

According to the Technical Secretariat's report on the status of Article VII implementation as at 31 July 2025, 166 of the 193 States Parties have reported the adoption of national implementing legislation. This includes 130 States Parties that have legislation that covers all of the initial measures. This is an increase by 2 States only from last year when 164 States Parties reported they had implementing legislation and 128 States Parties had legislation covering all initial measures. This is a welcome development in the national implementation of the Convention amongst States Parties. However, much work remains to be completed. Currently, 63 States Parties have only partial or unreported initial measures. We therefore urge all States Parties that have not yet drafted and adopted the necessary implementing legislation to do so without delay.

Drawing on years of civil society experience supporting States in strengthening their national legal frameworks, we stand ready to assist and offer practical recommendations to further strengthen the Convention in this regard.

The sharing of best practices and experiences has proven to be a highly effective mechanism for advancing national implementation. We encourage States Parties, the Technical Secretariat and civil society to continue facilitating such good practices, including amongst States Parties with shared priorities toward developing their legislative framework.

One of the most effective ways to accelerate progress is through tailored, coordinated and sustained international assistance. As we know, each State Party operates within a unique national legal system and faces distinct domestic challenges. Therefore, direct technical and legislative assistance tailored to the specific needs of individual states is the best way to address these challenges and respond to the specific needs of individual States. This includes direct tailored support from entities and organisations such as the OPCW but also civil society organisations that actively support States Parties in Africa, Latin America, Asia, and other regions.

In addition, States Parties should also make full use of the tools and resources already available. These include model legislation, gap analysis methodologies, technical databases and practical legislative guides. Promoting awareness and use of these instruments will further streamline and harmonise national implementation efforts.

We encourage States Parties to remain fully engaged on this issue and to look for opportunities to support their peers. **This may include financial support for civil society organisations delivering capacity-building programmes, or direct state-to-state mentorship initiatives,** including within and across regions such as Africa. **Continued advocacy and awareness-raising on the importance of national implementation will also help sustain momentum.**

National implementation is not a one-time exercise. It requires ongoing commitment, permanent attention and long-term cooperation. Continued collaboration among States Parties, the Technical Secretariat and civil society organisations will be essential to ensuring that all States Parties are equipped with robust and comprehensive national legislation.

Thank you for your attention, and we request that this statement be made part of the official CSP published proceedings.