

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT
BY
H.E. MR. KAMIL KHASIYEV
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN
TO OPCW
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION
ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE
OF THE STATE PARTIES TO CWC**

THE HAGUE, 6 DECEMBER 2006

Mr. Chairman,
Mr. Directory-General,
Distinguished delegates,

Let me join other speakers in warmly congratulating you on election as the Chairman of the Eleventh session of the Conference of the State Parties and wish you every success in all endeavors. I am confident that your diplomatic skills will enable us to achieve a successful outcome of this session and I pledge full support of the delegation of Azerbaijan in this regard.

It is also a great pleasure for us to extend our greetings to OPCW Director-General Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter and express gratitude to him and the Technical Secretariat staff for their continuous efforts in ensuring strict compliance with the Convention, promoting its universality, assisting OPCW members with national implementation and raising awareness of the crucial role of chemical disarmament and non-proliferation in the international security. The Conference is always an excellent occasion for us to review and assess what we have accomplished in the previous year and, perhaps more importantly, it is an opportunity to set priorities for the year to come and beyond.

Mr. Chairman,

International disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are inseparably linked with international security. The Republic of Azerbaijan regards this area of international cooperation as one of the priorities of its foreign and security policy viewing full elimination of all types of WMD as the ultimate goal of the disarmament process. In this regard the Chemical Weapons Convention which is the first international legal instrument for complete prohibition and destruction of the whole category of weapons of mass destruction under a strict verification regime represents a huge step forward in the direction of a WMD-free world. Upholding the authority of the CWC and ensuring effective implementation acquire great significance in maintaining global security and stability.

Promotion of the universality of the Convention has always been and will remain the key task that the Organization has to fulfill. There has been tangible progress in this regard over the recent years. Hopefully, this positive trend will continue in the future since comprehensive implementation and effectiveness of the Convention depend greatly on universal participation by all states.

Mr. Chairman,

Azerbaijan is located in a very sensitive region with a number of unresolved inter – and intra-state conflicts, that resulted in the emergence of “grey” areas which are beyond the control of the legitimate authorities. The geo-strategic situation of Azerbaijan at the cross-roads between the East and the West as well as the North and the South turns it into an important transportation hub. Due to these factors we pay particular attention to prevention of all kinds of illegal trafficking including the dual-use goods, components and materials, which can be used in production of weapons of mass destruction or means of their delivery. Significant progress has also been made in further improving export control system, including elaboration of a relevant legislative basis which is in conformity with the international standards as well in enhancing capacity of border and customs control services.

Given growing terrorist activities in various parts of the world, the threat of the "chemical terrorism" should not be underestimated. Relatively cheap cost of chemicals and easy access to relevant information in the epoch of globalization and Internet make the task of prevention of and preparedness for this type of terror topical enough. While a leading role in combating terrorism belongs to the UN and its CTC, there might be a need to take a fresh look at how the expertise of this Organization could be better employed in this area.

Having said that nevertheless, we continue to believe that a strict compliance with the Convention and its universality offer the most effective defense against terrorists gaining access to chemical weapons and hazardous substances.

Mr. Chairman,

National implementation measures represent not only obligations of the State Parties but are a necessary precondition to ensure full, smooth and effective implementation of the Convention. In the past years State Parties and the Technical Secretariat have put efforts into the implementation of the Action Plan, and provided assistance by holding seminars, extending financial support and expert advice. In this regard we highly appreciate the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in facilitating implementation of Article VII of the Convention. During the past period the Republic of Azerbaijan has made an important progress in implementation of its Article VII obligations. With the help of the Technical Secretariat first draft of the national legislation was prepared. In our drafting efforts, we have been oriented towards a contemporary and comprehensive legislation that fully corresponds with the aims and provisions of the Convention. Currently, the draft Law on the implementation of the Convention is undergoing relevant parliamentary procedures to be passed in due course.

As a country with rich potential for development of chemical industry and chemistry- related sciences Azerbaijan is interested in benefiting from numerous assistance programs run by the Organization. Azerbaijan also attaches importance to international cooperation in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry, which would contribute to sustainable economic development of the State Parties with economies in transition. In this regard we look forward to our fruitful cooperation with the OPCW and assistance of the State Parties in the spirit of Article XI of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I wish to express our sincere hope that current Conference will equip us with the required means to find effective solutions for the remaining issues in order to increase the efficiency of the CWC implementation process which is to the interest of us - all.

Thank you.