
**ELEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES OF
THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

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**STATEMENT BY
AMBASSADOR FUAD ŠABETA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE
ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

The Netherlands, The Hague, 5 December 2006

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, allow me to congratulate you, on behalf of BH Delegation, on your appointment for the Chairman of this Conference. I am confident that you will guide us through this event in an excellent way and I can assure you of our full support in fulfilling this important task.

I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to your predecessor, Ambassador of Peru, Mr. Jose Antonio Arrospide, for his excellent work.

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished Delegates,

During 2006, Bosnia and Herzegovina has made a considerable progress in the process of implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

One of the major achievements was certainly the adoption of the Law on Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction, by the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on February 21, 2006.

In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina has adopted the Law on Amendments to the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Its text was published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 55/06 from July 18, 2006, and the Law entered into force on July 26, 2006.

In accordance with the obligation from the Article VII, paragraph 5. of the CWC, the full text of both documents has been submitted to the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW.

These two very comprehensive laws, which cover all fields stipulated by the Convention, enables Bosnia and Herzegovina to fully meet all its obligations from the CWC.

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank once more to the Technical Secretariat for their substantive support. In particular, I would like to extend our gratitude to the Legal Branch experts for their constructive and professional assistance provided to my country.

With regard to the Article X of the CWC, I would like to inform you that the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on its session held on May 25, 2006, has adopted the Program on Protection against Chemical Weapons and on Response in a Case of an

Accident and Incident in which Chemicals are involved. The Program was published in the Official Gazette of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 80/06 from October 10, 2006.

Mr. Chairman,

Since our last Conference, the Technical Secretariat of OPCW has continued its vigorous efforts to accomplish the many tasks relevant to its mission, especially in the area of promotion of the principle of universality. The accession of the new member states gives renewed relevance and purpose to both the Convention and the OPCW. We welcome all these States and hope that we will have all remaining nations as full-fledged members of the CWC as soon as possible.

We attach great importance to the implementation of the Action Plan regarding the Article VII obligations and we hope that each country makes its utmost efforts to implement all its provisions. Enacting effective national legislation under the CWC, in all member states, would not just allow prosecution of offenders, it would send a strong message that our governments are not only committed to meeting our treaty obligations, but also to stopping a clear threat to global security.

Bosnia and Herzegovina commends adoption of multi-year payment plans as a mechanism to encourage States Parties that are in arrears to regularize the payment of their outstanding annual contributions to the OPCW.

We hope that the Conference will be in position to adopt Programme and Budget for 2007, which is very important for the future effective work of the OPCW.

Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a non-possessor state, encourages all possessor states to increase their efforts to speed up the process of destruction of chemical weapons and to complete it within deadlines set out by the Convention. In this regard, we advocate the proposed periodic visits by members of the Executive Council of the OPCW to destruction facilities and capitals in those States Parties proposing 2012 as the final deadline for the destruction of their stockpiles.

Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomes the adoption of the UN Resolution UN"Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy"(September 8, 2006) in which the OPCW and the International Atomic Energy Agency, are encouraged to continue their efforts, within their respective mandates, in helping States to build capacity to prevent terrorist from accessing nuclear, chemical and radiological materials, to ensure security at related facilities and to respond effectively in the event of an attack using such materials. This is very positive confirmation the OPCW's role in global anti-terrorist efforts.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the aims and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

I thank you for giving me opportunity to address you.