



Statement
by
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Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW and
Leader of the Indian Delegation to
the 11th Session of the Conference of States Parties
December 5-8, 2006

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation joins me in congratulating you on assuming the office of the Chairman of the 11th Conference of States Parties. Having seen your abilities and skills in guiding us during Executive Council Sessions in the past, it is a pleasure to see you once again in the Chair, to preside over the deliberations of this Conference. We are more than confident that with your leadership qualities you will steer us towards a successful conclusion of the 11th Conference of States Parties. I would like to extend to you the full support and cooperation of my delegation during this Conference.

2. I would also like to pay a warm tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Ambassador Jose Antonio Arrospe of Peru who guided our work with great wisdom and skill during the 10th Conference of States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

3. My delegation fully endorses and associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of Cuba, on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

4. We would like to thank the Director General for his comprehensive and detailed report. We are confident that under his stewardship, the Technical Secretariat and its staff of highly trained

professionals would continue their good work for the benefit of all States Parties and in pursuing the goals and objectives set forth in the Convention. We would also like to express our warmest appreciation for DG's unstinting efforts to promote the objectives of the Convention and its universal membership.

5. India welcomes the new States Parties – Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Comoros, Central African Republic, Montenegro - who have joined the Organization since the 10th Session of CSP. With a membership of 181, we are steadily moving towards our common objective of achieving universal adherence to the Convention. The active participation of all new members in the Organization will strengthen it further.

Mr. Chairperson,

6. The elimination of chemical weapons is the primary objective of this Convention. India's credentials in the area of destruction of chemical weapons are well known and widely acknowledged. We have accomplished all the three intermediate deadlines for the destruction of category 1 chemical weapons set by the Convention, and remain committed to complete their destruction in accordance with the Convention. Since the 10th Conference, we have made big strides towards destroying the remaining stocks and have already destroyed nearly 75% of category 1 chemical weapons under the stringent verification regime of the Organization. In view of technical explanations submitted to the Council, we requested for setting April

2009 as the deadline for the complete destruction of all our chemical weapons stockpiles. We hope that the Conference will approve the decision of the 45th Council in this regard. We expect that the destruction programmes of all other possessor states will also proceed in accordance with the timelines prescribed by the Convention.

7. Other objectives, that are no less significant, also need to be operationalized to achieve their full purpose. I am referring to the slow progress in realising international cooperation and assistance to its fullest level. India attaches great importance to the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention and for the fostering of international cooperation for peaceful uses of chemistry. An important decision was adopted on Article XI at the 10th CSP. We are disappointed that there has been little follow-up on the decision and the report of the Council required by the last Conference is not yet ready for submission to the 11th Conference. We would like to reiterate that this Conference should mandate the Executive Council to develop an Action Plan for the implementation of Article XI for approval by the next Session of the Conference. A continued neglect of this pillar of the Convention, we feel, is contrary to our agreed aim of full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Convention. We, therefore, look forward to cooperation of all States Parties for a constructive approach to this long pending, key aspect of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman,

8. India recognizes the importance of verification measures for activities not prohibited under the Convention. The Convention clearly outlines the provisions for the verification of relevant chemical industry facilities. For the application of verification measures, the Annex on Chemicals lists the schedules in accordance with the hierarchy of risks posed by them to the object and purpose of the Convention. This hierarchy of risks determines the inter se priority of inspections of relevant facilities. A shift in the distribution of inspections away from scheduled chemical facilities marks a departure from the fundamental principles of the verification regime laid down by the Convention. We believe that our common objective is to ensure that the OPCW's verification activities are in strict accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and relative to the risk the concerned facilities present to the object and purpose of the Convention.

9. We have noted that the distribution of inspection resources for Article VI inspections in the Programme of work and budget for 2007. We firmly believe that the budget proposals should not alter the verification priorities. Any discussion on the frequency of inspections of various types of scheduled facilities should be undertaken as an independent exercise to establish a clear policy on this matter.

Mr. Chairperson,

10. With regard to another important aspect of the OPCW Programme of Work and budget for 2007, let me recall that the NAM

States Parties and China have for long been reiterating a demand for substantial increase in the budgetary allocation for international cooperation and assistance programmes. The proposed small enhancement in the budget allocations for capacity building activities of the international cooperation programmes in 2007, still falls short of our expectations, as indeed of all NAM States Parties and China.

11. The 10th Conference of States Parties adopted a decision on the follow up of implementation of Article VII Action Plan. The approach of encouragement, cooperation and assistance which was adopted by the 10th Conference of States Parties has resulted in very significant achievements so far. We are happy that the Executive Council has at its 47th Session recognized the positive contribution of this approach and has endorsed its continuation for another year.

12. In the light of the rationale elaborated by the Director General in requesting an extension of the flexibility for the future implementation of the tenure policy, India has supported the draft decision on this issue. We are confident that it would be implemented in line with the past decisions of the Conference of the States Parties.

13. India supports the request of African States Parties and the African Union for an OPCW Office in Africa and hopes that details of the proposal would be successfully worked out.

14. The Conference would consider a draft decision on the establishment of the Host Country Committee and we hope that the

Conference will approve it. This important as it should lead to the early resolution of all outstanding issues in the full implementation of the Headquarters Agreement.

Mr. Chairperson,

15. The Second Review Conference presents an opportunity to review the operation of the Convention, which is a successful, multilaterally-negotiated, universal and non-discriminatory disarmament treaty. The most important task before this Conference will be to uphold the Convention in its entirety and reiterate our unreserved commitment to the implementation of all its aspects. We are pleased to note the Open Ended Working Group on the 2nd Review Conference has started its preparatory work under the able Chairmanship of Ambassador Lyn Parker of the United Kingdom. The States Parties, who bear the prime responsibility for the implementation of the Convention, should guide the review process at all stages. Their first hand experience provides a sound basis for the working of the Open-ended Working Group. India attaches high importance to deliberations of the Group and look forward to a constructive engagement with other States Parties to the Convention.

Thank You Mr. Chairperson.

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