

Check against delivery

**STATEMENT
AT THE
11TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

**BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR ANIL KUMAR NAYAR
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS**

The Hague, 6 December 2006

Mr Chairman,
The Director-General of OPCW,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentleman,

Mr Chairman,

Since the last Conference of States Parties, the Chemical Weapons Convention welcomed six new members to its fold, bringing CWC membership to 181. Singapore warmly welcomes these six members: Djibouti, Haiti, Liberia, Union of the Comoros, the Central African Republic and Montenegro to our global family against chemical weapons. We would also like to commend the OPCW's excellent work and its relentless efforts in promoting the Convention's universality.

Mr Chairman,

Singapore supports all international efforts to promote the disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In the wake of September 11 and the other terrorist attacks such as those in Jakarta, Bali, Madrid and Casablanca, we are faced with challenges never before imagined. Had these attacks involved weapons of mass destruction like chemical weapons, the consequences could have been much more gruesome, if not catastrophic in outcome.

Singapore strongly believes that states need to join together at the global and regional levels to curb illicit activities related to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands. In this respect, the Convention plays a crucial role in making the world a safer and more secure place.

Mr Chairman,

Singapore's national legislation to effectively implement the Chemical Weapons Convention was passed by the Parliament in May 2000. This legislation enforces the controls of activities like the production, processing, consumption, transfers and use of Scheduled Chemicals and Unscheduled Discrete Organic Chemicals under the Convention. Through this Act, Singapore has incorporated the requirements of the Convention into our legal system. The Act levies heavy penalties on offenders, enables our national authority to monitor relevant activities, and ensures the possibility and right for inspections to take place in the facilities that are relevant to the Convention. In addition, it includes an extraterritorial provision, allowing us to prosecute any Singapore citizen who commits offences under the Act outside of our territory.

Mr Chairman,

The CWC's cornerstone is its comprehensive verification regime. Singapore fully supports this verification regime. Since becoming a member, we have consistently provided timely annual declarations to the OPCW. Even as I speak, we are in the midst of preparing for our next national declaration exercise. We have thus far also received and facilitated 12 systematic OPCW inspections of our facilities declared under Article VI of the Convention.

Mr Chairman,

With respect to Article X Paragraph 7 of the Convention, Singapore has pledged to provide technical assistance through the OPCW in the form of verification and analytical facilities and expertise for purposes relevant under the verification regime of the Convention. This expertise and the facilities reside in our designated DSO National Laboratories. The designation of the chemical verification laboratory in DSO by the OPCW will enable Singapore to contribute positively and significantly to relevant verification tasks under the Convention.

Singapore's chemical verification laboratory in DSO has also been actively involved in a number of OPCW initiatives. These include the OPCW's off-site sample handling exercise to validate transport procedures for off-site analysis of inspection samples, and OPCW's stability studies of internal standards. Singapore's chemical verification laboratory continues to remain active in OPCW's inter-laboratory proficiency tests and has thus far volunteered the resources to undertake the role of a Spiking Laboratory during the 14th Proficiency test in 2003, and as an Evaluating Laboratory in the recent 20th test that commenced in October 2006.

Mr Chairman

Singapore strongly supports the objectives of the Convention and all OPCW efforts to promote these objectives. In this regard, Singapore organized the Singapore Regional Forum jointly with the OPCW in 2000. This workshop was aimed at promoting regional accession of the Chemical Weapons Convention and to provide a forum for professionals to discuss Convention-related issues. In October 2003, Singapore and the OPCW jointly inaugurated the First Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia, to provide a platform for the collective promotion of regional goals and exchange of best practices on practical issues relating to implementation of the Convention. Today, such a meeting has evolved into a network of responsible states and National Authorities, who gather annually to share views and perspectives on implementation issues. We are happy to see the successful continuation of these regional meetings in Asia after its inauguration in 2003. Singapore has also actively participated in various regional meetings, workshops and seminars organised by the OPCW and States Parties which aim to promote universality and implementation of the CWC.

Mr Chairman,

Provided under Article XI of the Convention, the regime encourages international cooperation and exchange of scientific and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes. Indeed, advancements in the realm of science

and technology, especially in the field of chemistry, have significant impact on the Chemical Weapons Convention. It may bring about the possible emergence of new toxic substances that could pose threats to the objectives of the Convention.

Relevant to this context, Singapore has been organizing the Singapore International Symposium for Protection Against Toxic Substances, or SISPAT, on a biennial basis. The symposium was inaugurated in 1998 with the aim of promoting international cooperation and the exchange of scientific information for peaceful research and development in chemical, biological, radiological and explosive defence. The Fifth SISPAT which took place on 27 November had more than 400 participants and was held in conjunction with the First International Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Explosives Operations Conference. This collaboration further extends the interaction platform between scientists and operations planners from around the world. It has also led to the establishment of an Operations-Technical forum that will allow closer interaction between scientists and operations managers and in turn translate and materialize scientific knowledge into operational tools.

Throughout the series of SISPAT events, Singapore has received generous support from the OPCW Conference Support Program. Various eminent scientists from developing States Parties were thus able to participate and contribute at these events. We would especially like to thank Director-General Pfirter for officiating at the opening of the fifth SISPAT, and for his remarkable keynote address which provided much food for thought.

Mr Chairman,

It is crucial that States Parties maintain their political will and determination to eradicate chemical weapons. Singapore will, on its part, do all we can to support the goals of the Convention, as well as the efforts of the OPCW to promote these objectives.

I wish you and all the distinguished delegations present here today, a successful Conference.

Thank you.

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