

**Statement by  
H.E Ambassador Anil Kumar Nayar**

**Singapore Delegation to the  
13<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties**

**2 – 5 Dec 2008**

Mr Chairman,

It is a great honour for me to address the Thirteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP). I would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Thirteenth CSP on your well deserved election. I have confidence that under your stewardship, the CSP would proceed smoothly this week.

I wish to thank the Director-General of OPCW, H.E Ambassador Rogelio Pfirter, for his opening statement to the Conference. His statement will definitely facilitate the discussions and deliberations for the week. I pledge the continuing support of my delegation to this session.

I would also like to express our appreciation to the Chairman, H.E Ambassador Waleed El Khereiiji of Saudi Arabia and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, Ambassador Benchaâ Dani of Algeria, both of whom had led us through the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, held earlier this year in April 2008, with their excellent stewardship. The Second Review Conference had been successful in reaffirming the objectives of the Convention and its achievements for the past eleven years. It also provided the directions for our future work in the implementation of the Convention.

#### Singapore's Counter-proliferation efforts

Mr Chairman,

In terms of Singapore's counter-proliferation efforts, I would like to reiterate that Singapore accords the highest priority in our efforts towards the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. While our national legislations and processes are in place to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention, we are mindful that our control measures should not hamper the legitimate activities of the chemical industry.

Singapore is constantly reviewing our legislations and processes to ensure their relevance and consistency with our efforts to curb the proliferation of WMDs. We are looking at best international practices with the intention of updating our export control list to align them with these practices.

### Universality

Mr Chairman,

Since the Twelfth CSP in 2007, the Chemical Weapons Convention has welcomed two new members to its fold, resulting in a total of 184 States Parties. Singapore warmly welcomes these two members to the Convention: the Republic of Congo and Guinea-Bissau. We would also like to commend Lebanon for its efforts as it had recently deposited the instrument of accession to the CWC.

Singapore supports the continuous efforts by the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW in undertaking the Action Plan for Universality of the Chemical Weapons, since its adoption by the Council in October 2003.

I would urge all the remaining States not Party to the Convention, to ratify or accede to it, without further delay. Only with the achievement of full universality by all states, coupled with the full implementation of the obligations of the CWC, would we be able to achieve the purpose and objectives of the Convention and affirm our full commitment towards global peace, without harmful chemical weapons.

### Destruction of Chemical Weapons Stockpiles

Mr Chairman,

As agreed in the Second Review Conference, the complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and conversion of the chemical weapons production facilities are essential for the realization of the purpose and goal of the Convention. Singapore welcomes its steady progress and today's achievement of 41.5%

destruction of the total declared chemical weapons stockpile. We welcome the news and commend the State Party which had completed its destruction of its declared chemical weapons stockpile in July this year, making it the second State Party to do so, after Albania.

Singapore applauds the efforts made by all the possessor States Parties and urges that no efforts be spared in the continuous efforts of destroying the chemical stockpiles, converting the production facilities, and in meeting the revised deadlines agreed by the Conference of States Parties at its Eleventh Session in 2006.

#### National Implementation Measures under Article VII

Mr Chairman,

Turning to the subject of national implementation measures under Article VII, I would like to encourage the States Parties that have neither implemented their national legislation nor set up a National Authority, to do so as soon as possible under the provisions of Article VII of the Convention. Singapore appreciates the efforts and work done by the Technical Secretariat in conducting training courses to guide the States Parties in fulfilling their roles and obligations under the CWC and commend the States Parties that had given their support in providing assistance to other States Parties. As for Singapore, we will continue to participate and provide the necessary assistance within our capabilities and resources at relevant training workshops.

#### Impact of Scientific and Industrial Developments on the Verification Regime

Mr Chairman,

The verification regime is an essential tool within the Convention which serves to build confidence amongst States Parties through on-site monitoring. Although the verification regime has been effective in meeting the requirements of the Convention, the verification regime must continue to develop its effectiveness and

efficiency, keeping in mind the rapid developments in the chemical and biological industry. This was also highlighted in the Report of the Eleventh Session of the Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) published in February 2008.

We look forward to the proposed change in the site selection methodology and urge all parties to provide relevant, accurate and timely information in their annual declarations to ensure greater relevance to the Convention and provide for more efficient allocation of verification resources. We further support the Technical Secretariat's suggestion of conducting sequential inspections in an effort to maximize the budget and resource allocation for the inspections.

Singapore supports the move towards the electronic submission of annual declarations and looks forward to the use of the first release of the Electronic Declaration Software for National Authorities to facilitate the fulfillment of the CWC Article VI obligations on declarations for OCPF and aggregate national data.

Singapore also welcomes the proposal in stepping up OPCW's capability in the analysis of biomedical samples from the victims of chemical weapons, which will further enhance the investigation procedures of the alleged use of chemical weapons.

#### Singapore's pledge of Assistance and Participation under Article X

Mr Chairman,

Article X remains an integral provision of the Convention and we urge more States Parties to contribute their capabilities and expertise in these areas. Singapore hosted a Technical Visit by the Assistance and Protection Branch earlier this year, to discuss the details of the Technical course that we have pledged under Article X. Singapore looks forward to conducting the course on "Emergency Response to Chemical Incidents" in early 2009. We will continue to work with our relevant agencies to look at new pledges that could help to build the capacity of our respective national authorities or scientific bodies.

We wish to reiterate our support for Article XI where the promotion of international cooperation in the exchange of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technological information in the field of chemical activities, is aimed at facilitating economic and social development and fundamental in achieving the objectives of the Convention.

### Conclusion

Mr Chairman,

States Parties must fully support the universality and implementation of the Convention in order to achieve a world void of chemical weapons. Despite the various challenges encountered, we had overcome them. Through our discussions, we were able to reach a consensus on these issues in the past conferences. I am confident that, under your astute leadership and the commitment of all States Parties, we will be successful in resolving the issues and challenges ahead at this Conference. I would like to assure you once again of the fullest support of my delegation in making this a productive and successful session.

Thank you.