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KENYA

**STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR RUTHIE C. RONO
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF KENYA
TO THE OPCW AT THE
FIFTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chair of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the State Parties. I am absolutely confident that, with your immense wealth of experience, you will be able to steer the deliberations of the Fifteenth Session to a successful conclusion. My delegation will offer you full support throughout the session.

I would also like to thank the outgoing Chairperson, Ambassador Voidotas Verba of Lithuania, for the exemplary work he did during his tenure at the Fourteenth Session. Equally, I welcome Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, who is participating for the first time in his capacity as the Director-General of our Organisation. Kenya will always offer him steadfast support during his tenure so that the Organisation can fulfil its mandate.

Mr Chairperson,

The Kenyan delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the African Group by the Permanent Representative of South Africa.

Kenya notes with satisfaction the progress made towards achieving universality of the Convention. We urge those States that are yet to accede to the Convention to do so as a matter of urgency.

Mr Chairperson,

As you are aware and as this august assembly is, the destruction of chemical weapons is the core issue of the Convention. Indeed the production and stockpiles of the chemical weapons pose a major threat to world peace and security. World peace can only be guaranteed when complete destruction of all chemicals is done indiscriminately. The extended deadline of 29 April 2012 as set in the Convention is fast approaching, yet there are clear indications that it may not be met and in particular by the main possessor States. My delegation would like to implore all possessor States to strive with a view to meeting the extended deadline. We should always be cognizant of the fact that there is no substitute **for peace but peace itself**.



I am not however pessimistic, but I feel that there is still optimism if only the possessor States can redouble their efforts, the deadline is within reach and can be met. From the reports we have received from the major possessor States their destruction processes would require an accelerated approach to beat the extended deadline of 29 April 2012.

Mr Chairperson,

As you are aware, Kenya does not possess, produce or have stockpiles of chemical weapons, however the support from the Technical Secretariat in the implementation of the programme for Kenya within the framework of the Africa Programme has continued to infuse the necessary skills and capacity building within the implementation of the Convention which will assist my country in its economic development. I would like to recognise the efforts of the Technical Secretariat who have in the recent past organised training courses where Kenya participated. They include basic courses which took place in Ethiopia and South Africa, the chemical safety management course in The Hague, and customs authorities training in Kampala, Uganda, among others. The Kenya National Authority also played host to an inspection team from the OPCW in January 2010.

Regarding the domestication of the Convention, the Draft Bill has been prepared and presented to the Cabinet Office for approval before presentation to Parliament for debate and enactment into law.

Mr Chairperson,

My Government would like to express its gratitude to the OPCW for assisting the National Authority with GC-MS equipment for the government chemists laboratories which has formally been received. The equipment will no doubt enhance the functions of chemist laboratories in Kenya including data analysis.

Mr Chairperson,

Kenya continues to demonstrate effectively its commitment to the work of this Organisation with up-to-date annual contributions to the OPCW budget. Equally Kenya continues to be current in its annual declarations having submitted fully in respect to 2009.

Mr Chairperson,

The threat of global terrorism continues to be an un-insurmountable challenge which demands our Organisation to step up its efforts in respect to disarmament and prohibition of chemical weapons in line with its mandate. The threat indeed will be catastrophic in the event that non-States Parties, like Somalia which harbours a large population of pirates in the Indian Ocean, will have access to chemical weapons. Somalia continues to be a major challenge to the security of world trade and in particular to the security of the region.

It is therefore imperative that the movement of chemical weapons across the boundaries of member States Parties and non-State Parties alike are monitored closely by a responsive organisation which can effectively deal with chemical incidents on a subregional and regional scale.

My Government in this regard attaches a lot of importance to the implementation of Article X which provides for assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical weapons attack. I would like therefore to call on our Organisation and States Parties, including other international organisations, to enhance positive collaboration aimed at effective counter-terrorism measures as well as activities geared towards strengthening the capacity of States Parties to respond to chemical incidents.

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation, would like to see the full implementation of Article XI through substantial assistance to non-possessor States in order to enable them to develop chemical capacity and industry. This will facilitate the developing countries to view the Convention as a relevant tool to them and as a catalyst for economic development through the unlimited use of friendly chemicals not prohibited in the Convention. In this respect, my delegation welcomes the development of concrete measures to ensure the promotion of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities through the exchange of scientific and technical information, chemicals and equipment.

Mr Chairperson,

I would like to congratulate the Director-General for his good gesture in extending the Programme for Africa for another three (3) years. My country, which is a beneficiary of the programme, looks forward to continued cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to strengthen the programme through new initiatives and actions that would strategically contribute directly to capacity building and the transfer of the requisite skills to the African States Parties as well as assist them on the timely implementation of the Convention.

Mr Chairperson,

Kenya notes with appreciation the voluntary contributions made by donor States Parties through the Programme for Africa. We also note with appreciation the contributions, including in-kind contributions, which African States Parties continue to make for the implementation of the programme.

It is my delegation's view that the budget for the Programme for Africa should be incorporated and factored into the regular budget of the Organisation so as to have a clear sequence of predictability in its implementation. Nonetheless, donor funding is a very important component in the implementation of the Programme for Africa.

Mr Chairperson,

My delegation is aware of the challenges facing our Organisation and in particular the Technical Secretariat vis-à-vis the geographical balance and equitable representation including gender in the professional ranks of the Organisation. I would like to implore all the States Parties of our Organisation to support the Technical Secretariat towards implementing a balanced representation, while considering specifically the low representation of the African States Parties which is prevalent in all cadres of our Organisation.

Mr Chairperson,

We would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I thank you.

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