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CUBA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ZELMYS MARIA DOMINGUEZ CORTINA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW AT
THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
REGARDING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI OF THE
CONVENT**

Mr Chairperson,

The delegation of Cuba should like to thank the facilitator, Mr Amir Shouket, for all his efforts, and to welcome the new facilitator, Mr Tariq Karim, of Pakistan, whom we assure of our support in this task.

We also recognise the efforts made by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to make progress with the implementation of this Article.

During the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Executive Council, the delegation of Cuba gave its views on the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Convention, using as its departure point the consolidated evaluation report for 2012, prepared by the International Cooperation and Assistance Division of the OPCW, and the report of the Director-General on the programmes, as well as the status of the implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Those views remain unchanged.

Cuba has traditionally supported the position that the implementation of Article XI of the Convention must be comprehensive, and has indicated on various occasions that the decision adopted on this topic, at the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, refers only to specific elements within an agreed framework for the full implementation of Article XI and not to everything covered by that Article.

In the evaluation of the implementation of this Article, due account must be taken not only of the aspects addressed by the said decision, but also of other, very relevant ones which have been under discussion in the informal consultations and workshops conducted on this very important topic. In this context, Cuba has put forward many suggestions at various fora.

Regrettably, despite efforts made, the full, effective and non-discriminatory application of Article XI of the Convention is still a matter outstanding on our agenda.

Cuba considers it to be unacceptable that certain States Parties continue to apply unilateral measures that limit, restrict and even prohibit free trade in, and transfer of substances,



equipment and information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes. These measures must be removed because they run counter to the letter and spirit of the Convention, especially Article XI thereof.

The adoption of an action plan on Article XI is very important not only for my country, but for many other States Parties. It is also important that the human and financial resources, necessary for international cooperation and the technological development of the States, be allocated. The highest possible level of interaction must be ensured between the International Cooperation and Assistance Division and the regional groups and the States Parties. The international cooperation programmes of the Secretariat must meet the needs of the States Parties by seeking methodologies that give an assessment of their real efficacy.

It is time that Article XI had an action plan – other relevant topics in the Convention have them. The plan must include an effective mechanism – in which all the States can take part – for following up on the implementation of this Article.

As we indicated at the Seventy-Fourth Session of the Executive Council, the existing cooperation programmes are mainly directed at the creation of national capacities to investigate, develop, stockpile, produce and use, in conditions of safety, chemical substances for purposes not prohibited by the Convention. A balanced approach is needed by virtue of which the cooperation programmes would be directed also at allowing unrestricted transfers of materials, equipment and chemicals for peaceful purposes.

On the other hand, the assistance offered by the Technical Secretariat through the programmes of the International Cooperation and Assistance Division, does, in the context of national implementation of the Convention, meet a requirement of Article VII. While we recognise the importance of the assistance given by the Secretariat in the field of national implementation, we stress that the assistance and cooperation programmes must have a much wider scope than support for the said implementation.

We trust that the proposed action plan presented to the facilitator by the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement which are States Parties to the Convention and China, can be discussed without further delay in the framework of the facilitation process already under way, in a wide-ranging, respectful debate, which would allow delegations to propose and analyse concrete measures to achieve the full, effective and non-discriminatory application of this Article.

Cuba should like to announce that, in coordination with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, it is organising a regional course on assistance and protection, which should be held in the last three months of 2014. This gesture is a modest contribution to the training of the States Parties to respond to incidents involving chemical weapons and toxic chemicals.

Finally, Mr Chairman, I should be obliged if this statement could be distributed as an official document of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the Convention.

Many thanks.

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