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BURKINA FASO

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF BURKINA FASO TO THE EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Mr Chairman,

I should like, on behalf of the delegation of Burkina Faso, to extend to you our sincere congratulations on your election to the Chair of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Our congratulations go also to the members of the General Committee who accompany you on your mission.

The delegation of Burkina Faso is happy to be taking part in the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and assures you of its full and entire cooperation in carrying out your mandate and for the success of the work at hand.

I also want to express all my gratitude to the Technical Secretariat, which has spared no effort to ensure that this Session was properly prepared.

We are, moreover, delighted that the Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to the OPCW.

This Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the OPCW is being held at a time characterised by all kinds of permanent threats, including chemical weapons, which in violation of the international conventions, are being used in the conflicts.

Beyond the humanitarian catastrophe represented by these weapons, using them is immoral, inasmuch as they strike without distinction at targets both military and civilian, notably women, children and the elderly. The permanent threat posed by chemical weapons, and the place which should be given to the OPCW in completely destroying the stockpiles of chemical weapons throughout the world, must therefore remain at the heart of the international community's concerns. This only underlines the importance of the OPCW – our Organisation – the main role of which is to combat these weapons of mass destruction.

Within the Organisation we should continue to work together on our hard-won experience in terms of international security. For its part, Burkina Faso will spare no effort to fully respect the obligations to which it subscribed when adhering to the Chemical Weapons Convention, on 8 July 1997.

Since that date, the efforts of our Government have focussed on strengthening both the international the legal framework of the application of the Convention. Establishing a



National Authority charged to follow up on the activities of the Organisation and the adoption of Law n° 003-2006/AN of 11 April 2006 and dealing with the application of the Convention are part of these efforts.

Order n° 2013-024/MRSI/SG/STANCAC of 3 May 2013 dealing with the creation and composition of the inspection team from the Technical Secretariat and of the National Authority for implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (STANCAC) completes the existing provisions.

Burkina Faso continues to take initiatives to follow up on and apply effectively the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It strives in particular to strengthen aspects relating to declarations and the practical organisation of inspections.

In this connection, Burkina Faso wants on the one hand to strengthen its acquired knowledge, and on the other hand, to share its experience with its regional African partners. That is why I should like to announce to the Conference of the States Parties our readiness to welcome regional and international training events in the area of assistance and protection within The Higher Institute for civil defence of the national Fire Brigade.

I should like to take the opportunity provided by this Session to reaffirm Burkina Faso's commitment to the effective implementation of the provisions of the Convention, without exception. I should also like to urge all the countries which have not adhered to the Convention to do so at an early date, and to call on the countries which possess chemical weapons to redouble their efforts to meet the deadlines for the destruction of their entire stockpiles – those deadlines were freely established. Only by doing this will it be possible to achieve the principal objective, which is the complete destruction of chemical weapons. The peaceful use of chemistry, as recommended in the provisions of the Convention, must be advocated even more strongly. To achieve this, we call for the bolstering of international cooperation in science and technology, to afford our countries the opportunity to benefit from the recent advances in the field of chemistry. By showing solidarity and giving the OPCW the resources it needs, we can strengthen confidence among States and all humanity benefit from the positive impact of research in the field of chemistry.

Disarmament debates, in general, can cause controversy. However, for the sake of our collective security, we must really commit, and involve, ourselves in the search for lasting solutions for the future of a more secure world. In this respect, the OPCW and all the related organisations deserve our support.

Thank you.

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