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**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FERMÍN QUIÑONES SÁNCHEZ  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE OPCW AT THE  
TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI OF THE CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation once again welcomes Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan as the new facilitator of Article XI, whose report we welcome at this Conference.

We voice our recognition of the Technical Secretariat for its work toward achieving the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, in spite of the complexities that it continues to encounter in terms of the availability of human and financial resources.

Nevertheless, we are concerned with the cancelation of a variety of courses aimed at training specialists from the National Authorities to the detriment of the resources assigned to the Technical Secretariat for international cooperation.

Cuba reiterates its deep concern over the fact that the pillar of international cooperation continues to lack due attention within the framework of the Convention and that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention continues to be a chimera. In this regard, we renew our call to have this process be integral and brought into practice in a coherent, concrete, and comprehensive manner.

The implementation of programmes that contribute to the strengthening of knowledge and capacity building is very important, and my Government will continue to support them and participate in them. We understand that work must continue to search for ways to boost the efficacy of these programmes so that they can be adjusted to the needs of developing countries.

Yet capacity building is not the only factor that should be promoted within international cooperation. Consequently, we must ask:

What actions can be taken to guarantee that less developed States Parties have real access to equipment, chemicals, and technologies to help them develop their chemical industries?

How can we guarantee that the States Parties that are in the condition to do so will contribute equipment and increase transfers and donations to the States Parties who need them the most?



These are only some of the questions that must be considered in order to understand if we are truly working on the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, the development of which could be made part of an action plan for its implementation.

It is unacceptable that some States currently maintain unilateral measures that make exchanges in international cooperation impossible among States Parties.

In spite of the fact that diplomatic relations between the governments of Cuba and the United States of America have been recently re-established, it is our responsibility to recall that the economic, commercial, and financial blockade suffered by my people for over 50 years remains in place and constitutes a violation of this multilateral treaty, specifically with regard to Article XI.

Not only Cuba, but the overwhelming majority of the Member States of the United Nations are urging for the immediate cessation of this political injustice, which continues to be a hindrance to the development of my country's chemical industry and makes it impossible for us to access the technologies and chemical products that are essential for our economic progress and the wellbeing of our people.

My delegation wishes to note that it has distributed a national document regarding item 17 on the agenda, which we hope will be examined and will help in assessing the real damage that the unilateral measures imposed by the Government of the United States of America have done to the Cuban chemical industry and the general development of our economy.

We are prepared to continue working with all of the delegations within the framework of the official consultations on this article. We believe that now is the time to move forward and identify the specific measures that are comprehensive and of interest to the States Parties, which we understand must remain within a monitoring mechanism that will facilitate the coherent implementation of the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

Thank you.

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