



**OPCW**

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**CUBA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CUBA AT THE  
TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
ON FOSTERING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN  
THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES  
(AGENDA ITEM 17)**

**Difficulties and obstacles for the Cuban full implementation of Article XI of the  
Chemical Weapons Convention.**

The economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba for almost 60 years, is still in force and continues to pose an obstacle to the economic and technological development of the country.

The unilateral restrictions and extraterritorial laws enforced by the Government of the United States of America under the blockade imposed on Cuba are a violation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”), under which each State Party should:

- (b) Undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and scientific and technical information relating to the development and application of chemistry for purposes not prohibited under this Convention;
- (c) Not maintain among themselves any restrictions (...) incompatible with the obligations undertaken under this Convention, which would restrict or impede trade and the development and promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical or other peaceful purpose...

It is neither conceivable nor acceptable that the United States of America limits, restricts and even prohibits, in many cases, the free exchange of chemical substances, equipment and scientific and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes between Cuba and other States Parties; which is, without exemption, a right of all States Parties.



**How the United States of America's blockade against Cuba affects the national application of Article XI of the Convention, related to economic and technological development?**

Until June 2017, the economic damage caused to Cuba by the application of the United States of America's economic, commercial and financial blockade, considering the depreciation of the dollar against the value of gold in the international market, amounts to USD 822,280,000,000.00. At current prices, during all these years, the blockade has caused damages for more than USD 130,178,600,000.00.

For Cuba, it is a priority that the integral development of the branches of industry that contributes to the fostering of strategic sectors is included in the National Plan for Economic and Social Development until 2030. These sectors are also affected by the application of the economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America. Between April 2016 and June 2017, the Business Division of the Chemical Industry (GEIQ) in Cuba faced financial damages for USD 6,721,700.00.

The unilateral restrictions and prohibitions established under the blockade, together with its extraterritorial nature, significantly restrict and limit the maintenance, sustainability, development and update of the chemical industry sector in the country. Some of the damages caused by the blockade in the field of chemistry in the above mentioned period include:<sup>1</sup>

The Cuban company, QUIMIMPEX, devoted to the import of products for the development of the chemical industry in Cuba, was once again unable to buy, from 22 companies in the United States market, the raw materials, spare parts and equipment it needs. The companies that were contacted indicated that the laws imposed by the Government of the United States of America against Cuba were still in force. Therefore, the import costs of those products increased by 20 per cent.

In order to purchase liquid chlorine at 98 per cent, QUIMIMPEX had to pay more than USD 111 per metric ton for this product. The supplier hired by Cuba came under severe pressure from the OFAC when the latter learned that the imports were destined for Cuba. Then, it was necessary to triangulate the import itinerary of the product, which originated directly from Colombia, and use instead the route Colombia-Panama-Havana. It was impossible to purchase the spare parts and equipment necessary to replace the Burton Corblin and GARO equipment, due to the presence of United States shareholders among the suppliers. This situation put the national production of chlorine at dire risk.

**Why should States Parties be involved in ensuring the end of this type of unilateral measure contrary to the Convention?**

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) has an important mandate in the promotion of the economic and technological progress of States Parties,

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<sup>1</sup> Data included in the "Report of Cuba". On the resolution 71/5 of the General Assembly of the United Nations named "Necessity to put an end to the Economic, commercial and financial blockade of the United States against Cuba".  
[http://misiones.minrex.gob.cu/sites/default/files/archivos/editorsuiza/articulos/informe\\_de\\_cuba\\_sobre\\_bloqueo\\_2017\\_ingles.pdf](http://misiones.minrex.gob.cu/sites/default/files/archivos/editorsuiza/articulos/informe_de_cuba_sobre_bloqueo_2017_ingles.pdf)

especially the lesser developed ones. In this context, the Organisation and its States Parties have the major responsibility of ensuring the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

The unilateral prohibitions and restrictions entailed in the blockade against Cuba are clearly incompatible with the provisions of the Convention. It is an obligation of the States Parties to reach their goals and purposes, including the lifting of measures of this type.

Cuba reiterates its firm commitment with the full implementation of the Convention in all its aspects and demands the unilateral and unconditional lifting of the United States' blockade, in fulfilling the 26 resolutions adopted by the international community in the United Nations General Assembly, which States Members asked to put an end to this unilateral policy.

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