



## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **STATEMENT AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AGENDA ITEM 17 – FOSTERING OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES IN THE FIELD OF CHEMICAL ACTIVITIES**

The United States is committed to the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC).

The United States is proud to work with other countries to bolster their capacity to implement the CWC and to provide significant technical assistance where we are uniquely positioned to do so.

#### **Export Controls**

Export controls are a lawful, legitimate, and effective means of ensuring national exports do not contribute to chemical weapons programs.

Export controls are not a ban and are compatible with both the CWC and the global peaceful uses of chemistry.

The reality is that export controls apply to less than 1 percent of global trade in dual-use goods, and denials constitute an even smaller percentage of all licensed transactions.

These rare denials can support our efforts to prevent transfer of toxic chemicals for purposes prohibited by the Convention or where the risk of diversion is too great.

By contrast, several studies of the economic effects of export controls have reinforced that strategic trade controls have a positive impact on promoting countries' trade and investment.

Informed by control lists and guidelines, export controls provide the transparency and predictability needed to facilitate trade by helping to build confidence that materials and expertise are not being diverted, misused, or proliferated for illicit purposes.

This, in turn, enables broader exports to countries for beneficial purposes.

That is why export controls expand, rather than limit, global access to science, technology, and international trade.

Suppliers can have more confidence in their exports when they are assured that sensitive technologies will not inadvertently contribute to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction-related technologies.

Many countries have implemented national export controls for decades at this point and it has not been an impediment to the tremendous growth that the global trade in chemicals experienced over the same period.

Multilateral nonproliferation export control regimes ensure that advancements in science and technology are not diverted toward activities that threaten international peace and security.

These regimes are therefore critical for helping ensure broad access to scientific information and technological advancements and their attendant economic benefits – not hampering them.

The United States and the many other countries who participate in such regimes – including those countries who selectively criticize them – do so in support of our implementation of key nonproliferation instruments.

## **Allegations of OPCW non-payment of assessed contributions due to U.S. sanctions**

We support engagement between the host country government and the OPCW to address the concerns of any State Party that is having legitimate difficulties paying or processing its assessed contributions.

Russia has a long history of claiming it cannot make its payments to international organizations because of sanctions. Yet when we drill down, we have often found that sanctions do not in fact prevent payments.

Often it is Russia's own refusal to utilize identified procedures to get payments to the intended recipient organization.

In this case, we have not seen any concrete and reliable information that banks are saying U.S. sanctions impeded Russia's payment of its assessments.