



OPCW

Second Review Conference of the CWC
April 7-18, 2008

Statement of the Delegation of

BRAZIL

Ambassador Luiz Filipe de Macedo Soares,
Head of the Delegation

April 7, 2008

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Director-General, Excellencies, distinguished Delegates and honored Guests:

At the outset, as this is the first time my Delegation takes the floor, I wish to congratulate you, Ambassador Waleed Ben Abdel Karim El Khereiji, on your election as Chairman of the Second Review Conference. Our delegation is certain that, under your able guidance, this meeting will be steered towards a successful outcome, and I can assure you of our full support and cooperation on your undertaking.

Mr. Chairman, please allow me to address some of the issues to which Brazil attaches great importance in this Second Review Conference.

First and foremost, I would like to draw attention to what has brought us together in signing this Convention: the common goal of freeing the world of the horrors of chemical warfare, through a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons throughout the globe. As we approach the universalization of the Convention and the complete destruction of stockpiles, Brazil would like to emphasize the need of compliance, by all possessing States, to the timelines established by the CWC. Although aware of the difficulties that might be faced by possessing states, we consider respect to the final deadlines to be of utmost importance for the strengthening of the Convention. The CWC is a reference for all those who seek universal and effective disarmament by means of multilateral legal instruments and regimes. Such effectiveness is directly linked to the commitment of completely destroying all arsenals. At a time when the world's eyes turn to us for example and hope, we must not fail in our responsibility to support and strengthen the CWC.

Brazil expects and believes that all deadlines will be met. With the approaching completion of the destruction of all stockpiles, the OPCW will be faced with new challenges and corresponding options. We must, therefore, start to consider those new possibilities and choose wisely which way to follow from 2012 on. As a strong supporter of disarmament in general and of the OPCW in particular, Brazil is eager to join other States

Parties in constructive discussions on the future role of the Organization. In such exercise, we must take into account not only the complete destruction of stockpiles, but also the approaching universalization of the Convention and the recent, rapid scientific and technological developments.

With regards to Article VI, especially verification activities, Brazil supports the continuous efforts towards improvement of the verification regime, always keeping in mind the hierarchy of risks of chemicals.

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil has always been a country of peaceful convictions and our commitments towards both disarmament and non-proliferation are reflected in the various instruments to which we comply. We attach the highest importance to the Chemical Weapons Convention and to the work undertaken by the OPCW due to its groundbreaking, successful role as a reference in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation. Brazil's recent payment of most of our arrears to the Organization, in a sum that exceeds three million Euros, shows our concrete commitment to it.

The Brazilian chemical industry is the second largest in the country and was responsible, in 2006, for 3.1% of our GDP and revenues of 81.6 billion dollars. It ranks among the ten largest chemical industries in the world, being the only Latin American industry to produce items included in Schedule II.

The relevance of the Brazilian chemical industry therefore entails great responsibilities. In addition to the full implementation of Article VII, which we have completed since 2005, Brazil also complies fully with the dispositions of Resolution 1540 of the UN Security Council and reports all its activities to the 1540 Committee.

The Brazilian National Authority in chemical control has also devised and implemented an innovative National Program for the Integration of Government, Industries and Research Institutions in the Sensitive Assets Area (known by the acronym Pronabens). The main goal of this Program is to raise awareness about all the international instruments regarding non-proliferation and disarmament, and it reaches out to all actors involved with

any aspect of dual-use assets. Pronabens provides those non-state actors with information about the Government's controls for transfers of sensitive technologies and dual use materials. It widens the State's cooperation and information exchange with the industry and research institutions for anticipated detection and prevention of prohibited transfers. The Pronabens program comprises visits to industries and research institutions involved with dual-use technology, as well as the organization of seminars and workshops. Besides ensuring the Brazilian compliance to the CWC provisions, the program increases the participation of the Brazilian society in controlling dual-use items and preventing chemical accidents and prohibited activities, in accordance with national and international legal frameworks.

With the implementation of Pronabens, Brazil was one of the first countries to comply with Security Council Resolution 1540 (article 8 D), which, and I quote: "calls upon all States to develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations" (end of quotation).

Mr. Chairman,

Brazil is of the view that, alongside disarmament and non-proliferation, international cooperation for peaceful purposes is one of the fundamental pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention and thus deserves to be duly fostered. It has, unfortunately, received less attention than the other pillars. Activities and programs related to international cooperation should be strengthened. This is a matter of great importance to developing countries, the majority of the States-Parties, as expressed by several Delegations during this General Debate and during the twelfth session of the Conference. We therefore urge States Parties to renew their commitments to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention. In this respect, we would like to stress the relevance of the decision adopted by the Tenth Session of the Conference on the full implementation of Article XI which is not yet sufficiently put into practice.

New possibilities for support and financing of activities regarding Article XI could be explored.

Mr. Chairman,

It is our understanding that full implementation and cooperation are interconnected, given that States depend on capacity building to properly conduct their implementation. Brazil has always been attentive to its obligations regarding such issues. The most recent example of our efforts towards both cooperation and implementation is the Advanced Capacity Building Course for National Authorities of Portuguese-Speaking Countries. This event, which took place in the Brazilian city of Salvador in September of last year, was the result of combined efforts between the Brazilian government and the OPCW. The course was attended by representatives of Cape Verde, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and Timor Leste. In an effort towards the universalization of the CWC, invitations were also extended to Angola and Guinea Bissau, States not yet parties to the Convention, which sent representatives.

Finally, as regards the discussions on the OPCW Program for Africa in order to promote universalization and implementation in the region, our delegation reiterates its support for such initiative.

Mr. Chairman,

As we begin two weeks of challenging work, I once again wish to convey our appreciation for your election as chairman and to express our hope that this Review Conference will lead us to meaningful and concrete results.

Thank You, Mr. Chairman.