



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Review Conference
8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.76
19 April 2013
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CUBA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR RODOLFO BENÍTEZ VERSON
REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA
AT THE CLOSING SESSION OF THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman,

Cuba welcomes the successful conclusion of this important Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The final document that has been adopted is certainly far from perfect, as is often the case in conferences as complex as this one. Nevertheless, we can state without doubt that we have adopted a good document today. Moreover, we are convinced that the Third Review Conference has concluded with the best possible result under the current circumstances.

The final document will be an indispensable instrument in the guidance of the work of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the actions of the States Parties over the next few years.

Every pertinent subject was discussed and considered thoroughly by the Conference. Even more importantly, not one pertinent subject has been left out of the final document, and the Conference has adopted a clear stance with regard to every one of those subjects.

Cuba would have preferred the final document to have referred explicitly to the need to adopt, without further delay, a plan of action to guarantee the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Nevertheless, we welcome the fact that the final agreed language has at last established the necessary conditions to begin in-depth discussion of the aforementioned plan of action within the framework of this Organisation.

Allow me to conclude, Mr Chairman, by congratulating you on your conduct of the work of the Conference.

We thank, in particular, the distinguished Ambassador of Iraq, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and the Ambassador of South Africa, facilitator for the political declaration. We cannot forget the contribution of the Ambassador of Algeria as Chair of the open-ended working group.



Finally, we convey our thanks to the Director-General and to the entire workforce at the Technical Secretariat for their professionalism and valuable assistance.

I request, Mr Chairman, that this statement be registered as an official document of the Third Review Conference.

Thank you very much.

--- 0 ---