



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Third Review Conference
8 – 19 April 2013

RC-3/NAT.6
27 March 2013
CHINESE and ENGLISH only

THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**POSITION PAPER - ARTICLES X AND XI OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION**

1. Assistance and protection against chemical weapons, and international cooperation are important pillars of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter “the Convention”). Articles X and XI have made clear provisions for assistance and protection against chemical weapons and for economic and technological development (or “international cooperation”).
2. While ensuring that priority is given to issues such as the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles and abandoned chemical weapons (ACW), the OPCW should effectively implement the provisions on assistance and chemical weapons protection and on international cooperation in order to enhance the capacity of States Parties for preventing and responding to chemical weapons threats and chemical incidents, and to promote advances in the field of chemistry for the benefit of mankind. This is a matter that bears on the immediate interests of many States Parties for security and economic development. It can be an effective motivation for States Parties to implement the Convention and help make the Convention more appealing to non-States Parties, thereby promoting its universality.
3. For 16 years since the entry into force of the Convention, the OPCW has made great efforts to foster assistance and protection and international cooperation and has made much progress and achievements, but there is still some way to go to meet the practical needs of the great number of developing countries. At present, the international community is facing a changing security environment, with the single traditional threat giving way to the intertwining of both traditional and non-traditional threats. The threat of attacks involving toxic chemicals by non-State actors has increasingly become the focus of attention for all. At the same time, with the deepening of economic globalisation, international cooperation has become indispensable for States Parties in their efforts to enhance capabilities for the peaceful use of chemical technology and for preventing chemical industry accidents, and to promote national economic development and environmental protection. Against this background, the effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the Convention will bring new dynamism to the Convention and the OPCW.
4. In view of the above, the Chinese Government maintains that the Third Review Conference should conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of Articles X and XI of the Convention and should take specific actions as follows:



- (a) Reaffirm the important significance of provisions on assistance and chemical weapons protection and international cooperation for the full realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention, and underline that inputs in this area should be increased for the comprehensive and balanced implementation of all provisions of the Convention without prejudice to keeping chemical weapons disarmament as the core major task of the OPCW.
- (b) The OPCW should ensure regular budget resources for activities related to Articles X and XI, which should lean towards developing countries so as to effectively improve their national capacity for protection and to facilitate development in the chemical industry for the benefit of these countries.
- (c) Reaffirm the relevant provisions of the first decision on international cooperation (C-16/DEC.10), and encourage States Parties and the OPCW policy-making organs to engage in extensive deliberations with a view to formulating a practical plan of action to ensure the effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention.
- (d) Underline that in the area of assistance and chemical weapons protection, the OPCW should, to the extent possible, design different types of tailor-made activities according to the practical needs of States Parties, while at the same time invitations to participate can be sent to targeted non-States Parties in order to give full expression of the benefits of the Convention and make them more inclined to join the Convention.

--- 0 ---