



**OPCW**

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**FIJI**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. PECELI VOCEA  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF FIJI TO THE OPCW  
AT THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE**

Mr Chairman  
Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed an honor and privilege for me, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Fiji, to be given an opportunity to address the Third Review Conference.

Please allow me, Mr Chairman, to congratulate you on your election as Chairman of the Third Review Conference. No doubt, your experience and skills will drive a resounding success of this Conference. We also wish to express our outmost appreciation to the Executive Council and the Open-Ended Working Group, led by the distinguished Ambassador of Algeria, on the preparation of the Third Review Conference. We also would like to express our gratitude for the Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü's exceptional leadership and outstanding stewardship of the OPCW, and its Technical Secretariat, in our pursuit for a world free of chemical weapon.

Fiji aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the States Parties of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

Fiji, as a small island state, is proud to be one of the one hundred 188 States Parties, and is fully committed to the implementation of the Convention. The Convention this year will celebrate its sixteen years of existence and we congratulate the OPCW and the support of the States Parties for the continuous motivation to ensure proper and effective implementation of the Convention. Our joint undertakings have taken us to a point where 80% of the world's declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed.

Fiji welcomes the declaration made by the two largest possessor States in their obligation to destroy their entire stockpile of chemical weapons. We encourage them and all other possessors to fulfil this crucial obligation as soon as feasible. We also encourage the remaining eight sovereign States still to ratify the Convention to do so, for the promotion of peace, in all regions around the world.

Fiji is known as the hub of the Pacific and remains susceptible to the illicit trade of chemicals, other than its peaceful means, given the porous nature of our borders and limited resources. Fiji, like many other small developing island States is further limited in its ability to specifically address the challenges of effective implementation of the Convention. Though



we are faced with limited resources and competing legislative demands, Fiji will continue to strive for effective implementation of the Convention within these challenges, as it fully subscribes to the aspirations of the Convention.

Whilst Fiji enacted its chemical weapons Act in 2005, we feel that our legislation still needs enhancement to fully capture the essence of fulfilling the aspirations of the Convention. In that regard, Fiji considers reviewing its Act to ensure that all pertinent issues are adequately covered—inclusive of key agencies empowered for its regulatory role in controlling movement of chemicals at the border and within our national boundaries. The National Authority for the administration of the Convention is the Ministry of Defence, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, the Fiji Customs and other government agencies to ensure effective management and for assisting chemical industries to meet the minimum requirements of the Convention.

Fiji has been privileged and benefited enormously from the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW in facilitating the 2010 workshop for the implementation of the Convention in the Pacific island States. To “kill two birds with one stone”, the Fiji National Authority maximised the opportunity by coordinating a national workshop for the chemical industry in Fiji.

Like other developing countries, Fiji fully recognises and understands the importance of establishing partnership with regional States Parties to ensure effective implementation of the Convention. Fiji believes that bilaterally engaging with other States Parties in areas of information sharing and pertinent national interests could assist States Parties in the full enactment of the Convention. Fiji welcomes the approach for international assistance towards capacity building, technology and specialised training on chemical safety and security.

My delegation is confident that this Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to review the operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention will objectively focus on the intricacies of the technical aspect and strengthening our cooperation with the view to address future challenges. In this regard, we would call on enhancement of implementation support for small island States to ensure that we effectively carry out our role, both nationally and as a group at the subregional level, without placing unnecessary burdens on ourselves and restricting growth and development in our small vulnerable economies.

Fiji reiterates its full support and is truly indebted to the Secretariat for the OPCW for its commitment towards fulfilling the aspirations and obligations of the Convention let alone its prime objective to eradicate stockpiles of chemical weapons and ensuring a world free of chemical weapons in the future.

Lastly, Mr Chairman, my delegation wishes you and all the distinguished delegates a successful Review Conference. Our delegation would also like to submit our written statement to be considered as an official statement of the Third Review Conference. Thank you.