



IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. MR KAZEM GHARIB ABADI PERMANENT
REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE OPCW AT THE
SEVENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON AGENDA ITEM 7 (F) "ARTICLE XI: BRIEFINGS BY THE FACILITATOR AND BY
THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT"**

1. First I would like to thank the Technical Secretariat, Director of ICA and the facilitator of Article XI, Mr Tariq Karim for their comprehensive briefings.
2. Full implementation of Article XI is essential for the realisation of the objects and purposes of the Convention, given that each and every article of the Convention bears the same value and significance.
3. Full implementation of Article XI, especially in the light of scientific and technological developments in the field of chemistry which increase the potential for cooperation amongst States Parties and render such activities critical for strengthening the Convention is a common commitment of all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat. Those States Parties that are the most advanced in this field should adopt positive steps aimed at promoting international cooperation and transfer of technology, on an equal and a non-discriminatory basis, particularly with developing countries, thus promoting the basic objectives of this Convention.
4. According to Article XI of the Convention, the provisions of it shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering either economic and technological development of States Parties or international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing, or use of chemicals.
5. Undue restrictions amongst States Parties on the exchange of technology, materials, and equipment for peaceful purposes are against both the letter and spirit of the Convention and affect its long-term viability.
6. It is necessary to promote international cooperation through the transfer of technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the field of chemistry and to remove all and any discriminatory restrictions in the field of trade in chemicals, equipment, and related technologies for peaceful purposes. In this context, the developed countries shall fulfill their commitment to transfer technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes in the chemical field and to remove any discriminatory restrictions, such as unilateral sanctions against other States Parties,



which affect the Convention's long-term viability and have an adverse impact on the trust existing among States Parties.

7. In order to preserve the credibility and integrity of the Convention, maintaining a holistic approach to the Convention is necessary. National legislations and administrative measures should not run contrary to the object and purposes of the Convention regarding the promotion of free trade of chemicals and transfer of the technology to the States Parties as well as the international cooperation within the context of Article XI of the Convention.
8. Article XI, indeed, embodies a delicate balanced between rights and obligations to be complied by the States Parties, which are basically focusing on activities related to the purposes not prohibited under the Convention.
9. The Convention assured the States Parties that their economic and technological development for peaceful purposes would not be hampered by implementing the obligations under the Convention. This assurance is of utmost importance since international cooperation in chemical trade and technology for peaceful purposes is a very compelling incentive for accession. It further encourages States Parties, especially developing countries stay on board and meet their obligations. Failure to fulfil this assurance through removing impediments for economic and technological development of States Parties would irreparably impair the integrity and relevance of the Convention.
10. Article XI, as it stands, establishes a general principle on how States Parties should frame their national policies in the field of chemical cooperation and activities, and how the Organisation should implement verification procedures. Despite this clarity, there continues to be some national tendencies as well as certain export control regimes, which violate and undermine the letter and spirit of the Article XI. In this context, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the Director-General of the Organisation shall use all means, capacities and powers for implementation of the provisions of the Article XI of the Convention to prevent avoidance by all States Parties of any such measures by calling on them to comply with their obligations and take necessary measures to remedy such situations.
11. An action plan is the best tool to ensure the full implementation of the Article XI as a fundamental pillar of the Convention. Guided by the experience gained by the Organisation in the implementation of other provisions of the Convention through action plans, the Islamic Republic of Iran recalls the necessity for development of an action plan that will ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. A proposal in this regard was made by the NAM States Parties and China to the Third Review Conference which is under consideration in Article XI Consultations. Two large groups raised (NAM and China and African group) the importance of developing an action plan for Article XI in their statements in the general debate and it is necessary that the final report of this session of the Executive Council to reflect these requests duly.
12. Finally, while commending voluntary contributions by the States Parties for implementation of the provisions of Article XI, it is necessary to allocate sufficient

human and financial resources through regular budget of the Organisation for this purpose rather than voluntary contributions.

13. I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council.

Thank You

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