



**Statement by**  
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Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW and  
Leader of the Indian Delegation to the  
Seventy-Sixth Session of the Executive Council  
8-11 July 2014

Mr. Chairman,  
Mr. Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,

Mr. Chairman,

This being the first Regular Session of the Executive Council which is being chaired by you, may I first of all compliment and felicitate you and wish you a very successful tenure.

I should also like to take this opportunity to commend the Director General and the Technical Secretariat for the good work being done by them, most recently manifest in the matter of elimination of Syria's chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation endorses and associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM and China.

Mr. Chairman,

Last month, a major milestone was achieved when despite the difficult security situation in Syria and other related matters, all chemical weapons were removed from Syria before the deadline of 30 June 2014. My delegation would like to express its appreciation and commend the efforts of the OPCW – Joint Mission.

We also appreciate very much the cooperation that has been extended by the Syrian Arab Republic to enable this task to be achieved. Having said this, Mr. Chairman, we cannot but take note of the fact that the task of destruction of the twelve chemical weapons production facilities still remains. My delegation would like very much that this task is completed at the earliest.

We also remain hopeful that the next phase of destruction of chemical materials outside Syria would also be achieved satisfactorily through the combined efforts of the States Parties involved in it and the OPCW-Joint Mission. In regard to the recent use of Chlorine on Syrian territory, we note that the Fact-Finding Mission constituted by the OPCW has submitted its preliminary findings. My delegation believes that this matter needs to be fully investigated and perpetrators held accountable.

Mr. Chairman,

Let me now turn to some other issues of importance to us. As an original State Party to Chemical Weapons Convention, and as a possessor State which has completed the destruction of its chemical weapons in line with the Convention. India's consistent position has been that the use of chemical weapons anywhere and by anybody cannot be justified. All chemical weapons must be destroyed. Destruction of chemical weapons is the most important undertaking made by every State Party to the Convention. The delays and postponement of deadlines is best avoided. We urge all the possessor States to take necessary steps to expedite the destruction process. In this context, it may be worth considering that the Technical Secretariat formulate an Action Plan with monitorable and verifiable targets.

Mr. Chairman,

In the year 2013, there were 229 Industry Inspections under Article VI. According to para 3.3 of the VIR, seven States Parties accounted for more than 50% of the 229 inspections. India not only received the maximum number of inspections (27) but in terms of intensity of inspection (i.e. ratio of number of inspections to the total number of inspectable units of a State Party in percentage terms), was one of the most intensively inspected State Party. The number of inspections in India, in respect of Schedule 3 and OCPF was just marginally short of the maximum limits permitted by the Convention. In the case of Schedule 1 and 2 too, Indian facilities were put to high scrutiny. If there are, indeed, any factors which lead to such a disproportionately large number of inspections in all categories of chemical production facilities in a country, we hope that this would be looked at with a view to ensuring more equitable distribution of inspections.

India congratulates those States Parties who have set up their National Authorities since the last CSP. In this context, I would specially like to commend Cape Verde who have set up their National Authority last month. Such efforts greatly

strengthen our organization as we move towards our common objective of achieving the universal adherence to the Convention.

Our National Authority is keen to respond to the call made by the Technical Secretariat for Mentorship programme for National Authorities. I hope that this offer will be considered favourably.

Mr. Chairman,

So far as Article XI is concerned, a well-defined Action Plan is yet to be put in place for its full implementation. We remain concerned about insufficient budgetary allocations from the regular programme and budget. For the full implementation of Article XI, we need to evolve a well-defined Action Plan with monitorable and verifiable indicators.

We fully support the increased application of Information Technology for use by the Technical Secretariat as well as the Member States. In one of our previous national statements, we had requested the Director General to conduct some sponsored courses for the new version of EDNA. We hope that this proposal is receiving attention. We also extend our full support for the Secure Information Exchange (SIX), another initiative of the Technical Secretariat, with the objective of improving the accuracy and speed while reducing discrepancies.

In the end, Mr. Chairman, I would request that this Statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference.

Thank you.

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