



**United States Delegation to the Seventy-Sixth Session of the Executive Council  
Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons  
Agenda Item 6 (i)  
July 8, 2014**

**STATEMENT FOR FOCUSED DISCUSSION ON ARTICLE X**

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this focused discussion on Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The sad reality that the 21st Century is yet again a century that has experienced the horrors of the chemical weapons is a reminder that assistance and protection against these weapons of mass destruction is as necessary today as it ever has been. We welcome and thank the EC facilitator for Article X, Sarah Broughton, for her briefing and her work to advance the implementation of this important part of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

We note with concern that, according to information provided by the Technical Secretariat, most states parties to the Convention do not have national protective programs in place, and almost half of all states parties have not submitted declarations pursuant to paragraph 4 of Article X. We encourage these states to take corrective action as soon as possible.

We commend the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to promote the implementation of Article X. We also strongly believe that it is very important for the TS to maintain robust Article X capabilities for the investigation of alleged use of chemical weapons. Nothing could highlight this need better than the UN mission led by Ake Selström and the ongoing work of the Fact Finding Mission, both related to the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

I ask that this statement be considered an official document of this Executive Council session and placed on the OPCW website and external server.