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CUBA

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR ZELMYS DOMÍNGUEZ CORTINA
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA TO THE OPCW ON
THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI
AT THE SEVENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairman,

The delegation of Cuba is obliged to the facilitator, Mr. Tariq Karim, for his work, and for the written report he has presented. It should also like to recognise the hard work of the Technical Secretariat in support of the efforts being made to achieve full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, despite the inadequate availability of human and financial resources for the task.

We thank, moreover, those States which have made voluntary contributions to support the implementation of this Article of the Convention, although we insist that it is essential that the resources necessary for such implementation should be part of the OPCW's regular budget.

Cuba has systematically stressed that the full, effective, non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI must be integral and must, therefore, address many aspects.

Cuba supports the continued conduct of programmes that contribute to the enhancement of the exchange of knowledge and capacity-building among States; at the same time, it considers it appropriate to continue seeking formulae which allow as effective an evaluation as possible to be made of the actual impact of the programmes in the field of the economic and technological development of the States Parties.

One of the measures in the decision on Article XI adopted during the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties is to facilitate for States the acquisition of equipment and technology. Regrettably, and in contrast to the practice of other international organisations, transfers to developing countries have not yet received the attention they deserve.

If countries do not have modern laboratories and necessary equipment, or the knowledge and experience gained through courses, workshops and cooperation programmes, those elements cannot be used to enhance countries' economic and technological development. It should be remembered that the transfer of technology in the field of chemistry, in a non-discriminatory fashion and with no restrictions additional to those imposed by the Convention, is a legitimate right of the States Parties to this multilateral disarmament treaty.



Cuba expresses its satisfaction at the conduct in this building of the seminar on Article XI, and at the recent informal consultations held in June, during which the constructive proposal was once more advanced by the member countries of NAM that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China for an Action Plan for the full, effective, non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

Cuba appeals for compliance with the agreement from the recent informal consultation, and that the drafting and discussion of the compilation document of the Proposal for an Action Plan, the decision on Article XI adopted during the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties, the Third Review Conference, and the results of the various workshops conducted, be carried out as soon as may be, so that the negotiations are not unnecessarily delayed.

We are struck by the fact that the Action Plan was not mentioned explicitly in the facilitator's report. It was, after all, put forward by the member countries of NAM that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China, but was replaced by the phrase 'additional proposal'. The document to be developed should say 'Action Plan'. It is a disgrace that in this very successful organisation things cannot be called by their names, nor can the reality be reflected of what happened during a consultation as active as the one under review.

We repeat that the conditions have been established to hold in-depth discussions among all the States Parties and arrive at a consensus solution which would allow a follow-up to the implementation of this Article; this is what happens with other Articles of the Convention.

We appeal to all delegations to become involved in this process, with a serious, flexible, constructive approach, bearing in mind the significance of the topic of international cooperation and how important it is for many of the Member States of this Organisation. The delegation of Cuba repeats its commitment and its readiness to participate actively in the negotiations.

I should be obliged if this Statement could be circulated as an official document of this Seventy-Sixth Session of the Executive Council.

Many thanks.

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