



OPCW

Executive Council

Eighty-First Session
15–18 and 23 March 2016

EC-81/NAT.28
17 March 2016
ENGLISH and SPANISH only

CUBA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR FERMÍN QUIÑONES SÁNCHEZ
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF CUBA TO THE OPCW
AT THE EIGHTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE XI OF THE CONVENTION**

Mr Chairperson,

The Cuban delegation welcomes facilitator Mr Shoaib Sarwar of Pakistan and his report at this regular session of the Council.

We reiterate our recognition of the Technical Secretariat for its efforts in advancing toward the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, in spite of the complexities and obstacles that persist, as well as the limited human and financial resources available for this purpose.

My delegation again voices its grave concern over the fact that international cooperation remains a task that does not receive sufficient attention within the Organisation and that the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention continues to be an unfulfilled need. Cuba again calls for this process to be all-inclusive and carried out in a concrete, systematic, and comprehensive manner.

The implementation of programmes that contribute to strengthening the exchange of knowledge and capacity-building are very important, and my government will continue to support and participate in them.

We call for the continued search for ways to facilitate an increase in the effectiveness of these programmes and adjust them to the specific needs and realities of developing countries.

Capacity-building and the promotion of the exchange of information are not the only aspects that should be encouraged when it comes to the implementation of Article XI.

Many States Parties to the Convention do not have modern laboratories or equipment to develop their chemical industry for peaceful purposes. As a result, the knowledge and experience gained from courses, workshops, and cooperative programmes promoted by the OPCW cannot, in many cases, be materialised or put into use toward economic and technological development.



We call on the States Parties able to do so to contribute analysis equipment. According to the report on the implementation of Article XI, there are few transfers or donations—even of used equipment—to developing countries.

Article XI clearly states that the acquisition and transfer of chemicals, equipment, and technologies should be facilitated for States Parties for non-prohibited purposes and that there cannot be any restrictions or barriers that could hinder said process.

As States Parties to the Convention we—without exception—have the legitimate right to participate in the broadest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, and information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes and, at the same time, we are all obligated to facilitate said exchange.

My delegation continues to object to the fact that some States impose unilateral measures, making exchanges among States Parties in this area impossible.

The economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed against the Cuban people for over five decades remains intact and constitutes a violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention, specifically Article XI.

We call for the end of these senseless politics, which continue to hamper the development of my country's chemical industry and make it impossible for us to access chemical technologies and products that are crucial for our economic progress and the development of key sectors, such as the health sector.

The Cuban delegation will continue to count on the development of a constructive atmosphere within the informal consultations held on this Article. At the same time, this atmosphere should also be comprehensive and coherent, and address all of the proposals made by States—such as the need for a step-by-step action plan that will benefit less developed States Parties and facilitate adequate monitoring of the implementation of this Article—so that these can be discussed with seriousness and commitment, as is done with other Articles of the Convention.

Finally, my delegation wishes to voice its support for the proposal made by the Non-Aligned Movement and China to hold a workshop in The Hague in the upcoming months that would make it possible to evaluate the degree to which Article XI has been implemented and to discuss any proposals or initiatives of the States Parties.

Thank you very much.

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