



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Sixteenth Session
28 November – 2 December 2011

C-16/NAT.22
29 November 2011
ENGLISH only

PHILIPPINES

**STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR LOURDES G. MORALES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PHILIPPINES
TO THE ORGANISATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT
THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Excellencies,
and distinguished delegates,

1. My delegation wishes to join the other States Parties in congratulating Ambassador Paul Thomas Arkwright of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on his election as Chairperson of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. Ambassador Arkwright, you have our full support in ensuring the success of this year's Conference.
2. Please allow me to extend my delegation's congratulations and appreciation to outgoing the Chairperson, Ambassador Julio Roberto Palomo Silva of Guatemala, for his exemplary work as Chairperson of the Fifteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

Our congratulations also go to the newly-elected Vice-Chairpersons of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference.

Mr Chairperson,

3. My delegation remains firm in its commitment to the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and commends the OPCW on its work for the complete destruction of chemical weapons and the conversion or complete destruction of chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs).
4. The current membership of 188 countries shows that the Convention is increasingly relevant, particularly since this number now includes 98% of the world's population.
5. My delegation supports the initiatives of the OPCW towards the membership of States which are as yet not parties to the Convention.
6. My delegation is one with other States Parties in urging these States to become Parties to the Convention in order to achieve universality of the Convention.



7. In line with the national implementation measures of the Convention, I am pleased to inform the Conference that on 28 April 2011, President Benigno S. Aquino III designated the Executive Secretary, the Honourable Paquito N. Ochoa, Jr., as Head of the Philippine National Authority, with the Program Management Center (PMC) as its Secretariat for the Chemical Weapons Convention.
8. Undersecretary Nabil A. Tan, Head of the PMC, is attending the Conference. Undersecretary Tan also participated in the Thirteenth Annual Meeting of National Authorities held last week. The PMC will be working closely with the Technical Secretariat, particularly with the Office of the Legal Adviser, Director Santiago Onate, on the draft national legislation for the full implementation of the Convention, which will be re-submitted to the Philippine Congress.
9. With dynamism and efficiency, the Office of the Executive Secretary has managed to realign national mechanisms that will allow the Philippines to fulfil its obligations under the Convention.
10. My delegation notes that some possessor States Parties have already signified that they will not be able to achieve total destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles within the final extended destruction deadline of 29 April 2012.
11. My delegation associates itself with the statement of Ambassador Zelmys Maria Dominguez Cortina of Cuba on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Convention and China, in its call on these possessor States Parties to provide information on the definite completion dates of their destructions plans to affirm that these concur with the final extended deadline.
12. My delegation trusts that these possessor States Parties will remain committed to their obligation under the Convention of total destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles.
13. My delegation would like to commend the efforts being undertaken by the current Executive Council Chairperson, Ambassador Peter Goosen of South Africa, following the work of his predecessors, Ambassador Jorge Lomónaco of Mexico and Ambassador Jean-François Blarel of France, in addressing the issue of non-compliance with the final extended destruction deadline by some possessor States Parties.
14. Through Ambassador Goosen's leadership and skilful diplomatic management as Executive Council Chairperson, the Council has come to be in a position to recommend a draft decision on the final extended destruction deadline to the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties.
15. My delegation gives its full support to working on a decision at this Conference, based on consensus, on the issue of the final extended destruction deadline, the crucial centrepiece of full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention.

16. My delegation wishes to recognise the efforts of some possessor States in achieving completion of their chemical weapons stockpiles destruction activities way before the 29 April 2012 deadline.
17. In the area of assistance and protection, my delegation would like to thank the OPCW for its sponsorship of Philippine personnel's participation in training courses and exercises relevant to the implementation of the Convention.
18. These courses and exercises have been particularly important because of the establishment of a new National Authority this year.
19. Through OPCW sponsorship, Philippine personnel took part in training courses and exercises in the Netherlands, Singapore, Pakistan, Malaysia, the Czech Republic and the Republic of Korea, as well as participated in OPCW's Associate Programme from July to September 2011 in the Netherlands.
20. My delegation would also like to extend its appreciation to the host countries of these training courses.
21. The Office of the Executive Secretary will coordinate with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW on the training of key personnel in the area of capacity-building, with the goal of being able to assist the OPCW in its future plans on assistance and protection in the region.
22. My delegation commends the OPCW for the Conference on International Cooperation and Chemical Safety and Security it held in September 2011.
23. My delegation is firm in its association with the statement given then by the Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that are States Parties to the Convention, on closely cooperating with other Member States and regional groups to promote and enhance the culture of chemical security and safety in the ASEAN region.
24. My delegation fully supports the initiatives of the OPCW in strengthening international cooperation on the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Mr Chairperson,

25. Once again, my delegation wishes to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of this Conference, and would like to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring the success of the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.
26. I would like to request that this statement be issued as an official document of this Conference.

Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -