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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
DUBROVNIK, CROATIA, 12 - 14 APRIL 2000**

1. The Government of the Republic of Croatia and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) organised a regional workshop on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Dubrovnik, Croatia, from 12 to 14 April 2000. The workshop drew participants from a wide circle of Member States, including both Croatia's immediate neighbours and Member States which are Croatia's closest trading partners. Participants from the following 23 Member States, representing both government and industry, took part in the proceedings: Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Greece, Georgia, Italy, Lithuania, Hungary, Germany, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.
2. The workshop provided a framework within which government officials and representatives of the chemical industry could discuss and share their experiences of implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention. It brought together participants with hands-on experience in implementing the Convention, who shared their practical experiences and exchanged ideas with other participants.
3. The workshop was opened by Ambassador Ana Marija Bešker, on behalf of the Government of Croatia, and by the Deputy Director-General, Mr John Gee, on behalf of the OPCW. In her welcome address presented on behalf of Ms Vesna Cvjetkovic-Kurelec, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Croatia, Ambassador Bešker reflected on the stability pact for South-Eastern Europe and its relationship to the present workshop, both of which were of considerable importance for security and cooperation in the region, with particular relevance for declared non-possessor States Parties. While asking all those present to "capitalise on the useful work done so far and explore new grounds for enhanced cooperation and advancement of the objectives of the Convention", Ambassador Bešker especially stressed the need for the universality of the Convention's regime in South-Eastern Europe and for the accession of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In his opening address the OPCW's Deputy Director-General recalled that the Convention was a unique confidence building measure with a clear legal framework, and called for universality in the entire Mediterranean region. Ambassador Ignacio Pichardo Pagaza of Mexico, in his capacity as Chairman of the Executive Council, also addressed the workshop.

4. A subsequent presentation discussed the Croatian experience of the implementation of the Convention, and emphasised Croatia's determination to involve the chemical industry in implementing the Convention in declared non-possessor States Parties, and to reach out to industry in implementing the provisions of the Convention.
5. The programme of the workshop covered a range of issues of national, regional and global significance, and also addressed specific concerns relating to the role of industry in the implementation of the Convention. The participants felt that the workshop was particularly successful, as discussion ranged beyond the confines of any one region, thus making the interactions more productive for all participants. A special feature of the workshop was that it interspersed presentations with roundtable discussions on the issues at hand - namely declaration requirements and the identification of declarable activities; the receiving of routine inspections and escort activities; the protection of confidential information collected for verification purposes and the procedures applied by the OPCW to this end; the role of industry in implementing the Convention; trade in scheduled chemicals, including the imminent prohibitions regarding transfers of Schedule 2 chemicals to States not party to the Convention; the advantages and possibilities of an integrated approach to the implementation of international treaties related to the safe management of chemicals; and international cooperation pursuant to Article XI of the Convention.
6. The workshop called for the more active involvement of the chemical industry in the implementation process. It underlined the need to further awareness within the chemical industry of the Convention and its requirements. There were discussions of a proposal to consider establishing an industry board for issues related to the verification of the chemical industry.
7. Another issue that came to the fore was the need to further develop adequate legislation for the monitoring of dual-use chemicals. There was also a proposal to consider the possibility of umbrella legislation within the region on Convention-related legislation. Other discussions related to the use of the Declaration Handbook, the conduct of and the reporting on industry inspections, and the need for additional training opportunities for national escorts.
8. The participants also addressed issues related to the fostering of international cooperation in the region, including the need to improve coordination between National Authorities, the role of industry in general vis-à-vis international cooperation programmes, and the need to disseminate information to all States Parties regarding programmes in the field of international cooperation. Furthermore, participants called for the development of specific problem-oriented projects in selected target countries.
9. The success of the workshop was the result of the excellent preparations made by the National Authority of Croatia. The conditions for the workshop were ideal, and there was agreement that the extensive preparations that had gone into the substantive preparations for it had ensured its resounding success. Participants felt that this event had made a significant contribution to improving the implementation process in the region, while also fostering regional cooperation and encouraging universality.