

**Statement by Ambassador Key Cheol LEE
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW
at the 17th Session of Conference of States Parties to the CWC**

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. Director General,
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me begin by joining the previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption as chairperson of this 17th Session of Conference of States Parties to the Convention. My delegation is confident that your able leadership and guidance will lead us to a constructive conclusion in this Session.

I also convey my delegation's gratitude to the outgoing chairperson of the 16th Session of the Conference, Ambassador Paul Arkwright of the United Kingdom, for his outstanding efforts and dedications to the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of the Republic of Korea has been attaching a great importance to the full achievement of the goals of the Convention and has faithfully implemented its obligations under the Convention since the entry into force of the Convention in 1997. I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my Government's firm and unwavering will to fulfill its responsibility and to continue working together with other States Parties and the Technical Secretariat.

In this regard, my delegation is pleased to note that on the occasion of 15th Anniversary of the Convention this year, the number of the States Parties of the Convention reached 188 nations and that more than 75% of the declared stockpiles were destroyed by the 2012 destruction deadline. However, there still remains a considerable amount of stockpiles yet to be eliminated. Recalling the relevant decision at the 16th Conference of States Parties, the Korean Government requests the States Parties in possession of chemical weapons to utilize available resources to complete the destruction of their remaining chemical weapons as early as possible under strict verification by the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

Achieving full universality of the Convention remains a core objective of the OPCW as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stressed at the High-Level meeting in New York to mark the 15th Anniversary of the OPCW.

Unfortunately, for the last couple of years, we haven't seen any significant development in the status of those States not Party whose non-adherence to the Convention is a serious concern to the humanity. Amongst 8 States not Party, a potential threat of use of chemical weapons in Syria underlines the special importance of the accession to the Convention by the possible possessor states of chemical weapons including North Korea. While fully supporting the ongoing implementation of the universality action plan, my delegation requests that the Technical Secretariat and neighboring States Parties of the possible possessor states endeavor their concerted efforts to enhance the tailor-made and collective approach via diverse political security dialogues engaging the States not Party in the region.

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance of the implementation of Article VII and XI, especially now that the OPCW is reviewing its gradual shift of focus to non-proliferation. Nonetheless, according to the Report on the status of implementation of the Article VII submitted by the Director General, only 47% of States Parties have adopted necessary measures that fully implement the Convention. In order to tackle this longstanding issue, my delegation welcomes the ongoing consultation concerning "incremental approach" for the implementation of Article VII proposed by the Technical Secretariat. At the same time, my delegation is also interested in the "synergy approach" emphasizing inter-related and balanced implementation of Article VI, VII, X and XI.

Aside from this, the Korean Government has been sponsoring various training courses and workshops for some Asian states parties relating to Article VII, X and XI as part of contributions to the successful implementation of the Convention. For this purpose, Seoul organized a workshop on Article XI from 13 to 15 November this year in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat. This workshop provided a meaningful stage to share our experiences of peaceful development and use of chemical industry and technology.

Mr. Chairperson,

The 3rd Review Conference to be held in 2013 will present an invaluable opportunity to evaluate the last 15 years of operation of the Convention and to overcome the current challenges in the chemical weapons disarmament and non-proliferation regime as well. Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to thank the chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, Ambassador Nassima Baghli of Algeria for her excellent work in preparation for the 3rd Review Conference. We look forward to seeing a comprehensive draft report that will pave the way for the fruitful conference.

In closing, I would like this statement to be treated as an official document of the 17th Session of the Conference of States Parties.

Thank you. /end/