



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Seventeenth Session
26 – 29 November 2012

C-17/NAT.17
26 November 2012
ENGLISH only

KENYA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. PROF. RUTHIE C. RONO
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANISATION
FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AT THE
SEVENTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

1. Allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate and warmly welcome you as the Chairperson of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I am confident that, with your vast multilateral expertise, you will be able to guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. May I reassure you of the support and cooperation of my delegation.
2. My delegation commends and extends our appreciation to the out-going chairperson, H.E. Mr Paul Arkwright, Ambassador of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for his diligence and commitment during the Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.
3. This delegation associates itself with the statements made on behalf of the Africa Group by H.E. Sirajuddin H. Yousif, Ambassador of Sudan and that of the Non-Aligned Movement and China delivered by H.E. M. M. Akhondzadeh, Deputy Minister for International Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
4. I also take note of the opening statement by the Director-General of the Organisation of the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on the activities of the Organisation. My delegation commends the fruitful work achieved so far as well as the continued focus on activities geared towards the full implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
5. In this regard, we welcome the appointment of Mr Mark Albon as Director of International Cooperation and Assistance. We wish him success in his work.
6. We have noted with satisfaction the efficient preparatory work undertaken by the Executive Council, the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties since the Sixteenth Conference of the States Parties. In this connection we applaud the spirit of consensus which prevailed resulting to having before us, in a timely manner, the 2013 Draft Programme and Budget for our consideration. We commend the efforts of the facilitators.



7. While reiterating our position, the implementation of Article X is of immense importance to my delegation as it provides for assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical weapons. As such it is paramount that we continue to ensure practical capacity-building as well as the transfer of materials and appropriate equipments in order to stem chemical incidents on a regional and subregional basis.
8. In this regard, we once again call for continued international cooperation within the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention in preventing chemical incidents and terrorists from acquiring and/or using chemical weapons and toxic chemical materials.
9. Bearing in mind that OPCW is not an anti-terrorism organisation, we however acknowledge that it has a role to play towards contributing to the global efforts against terrorism. One such way has been the Executive Council decision of 2001 (EC-XXVII/DEC.5, dated 7 December 2001) which established the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism. Bearing in mind the discussions held so far under this platform this year, Kenya looks forward to further consultations next year within the context of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Third Review Conference.
10. In relation to the work of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism, I thank Mr Krzysztof Patulej, the out-going Director of the Office of Special Projects, for effectively coordinating the work on OPCW's efforts against terrorism and for providing support for the work of the OEWG on Terrorism. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.
11. While recalling the decision on Article XI adopted in the Sixteenth Session (C-16/DEC.10, dated 1 December 2011), Kenya takes note of the achievements made so far by States Parties and the OPCW Technical Secretariat in the implementation of this decision. Kenya, however, reiterates the importance for States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to engage fully in the full and effective implementation of this article as it is an integral part of operational programmes and activities of the Organisation.
12. It is also paramount that OPCW act as a platform for sharing best practises in the implementation of the Convention. The engagement at the national and the regional level should also be heightened so as to promote the exchange of scientific knowledge and skills for the peaceful use of chemistry and enhancement of national protective capacities.
13. My delegation notes with appreciation the continued efforts towards the implementation of the Programme for Africa by the Technical Secretariat. Kenya looks forward to continuing collaborating with the Secretariat in strengthening existing projects as well as in the development of new projects which will enhance the capacity and skills of States Parties to fully implement the Convention.
14. Kenya commends the work of H.E. Nassima Baghli, Ambassador of Algeria, and Chairperson of the open-ended working group of the Third Review Conference and looks forward to the first draft of the Chair's report. Kenya also reassures her of our continued support.
15. Finally, Mr Chairperson, I thank you and request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Seventeenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.