



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Eighteenth Session
2 – 6 December 2013

C-18/NAT.11
2 December 2013
ENGLISH only

UGANDA

**STATEMENT BY HON. MWESIGWA RUKUTANA
MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND INDUSTRIAL
RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AT THE
EIGHTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

Allow me to take this opportunity on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your election as Chairperson of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that you will steer the deliberations of the Eighteenth Session to a successful conclusion. My delegation will offer you full support throughout the session.

I have also taken note of the opening statement by Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü, Director-General of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on its activities and wish to express our appreciation for the professional manner in which he continues to manage the affairs of the Organisation. We would also like to congratulate the Director-General on his reappointment to continue to lead this Organisation and pledge our full support and cooperation to him as he steers it to maintain its important role of contributing towards global peace and security.

We congratulate the OPCW for having been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013. The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize will give the OPCW greater authority to address the challenges of chemical weapons, and also impose an expectation for the Organisation to play its part in meeting the international community's aspiration for a world free of the threat of or use of chemical weapons.

The Convention remains the only multilaterally negotiated, non-discriminatory and internationally verifiable instrument for the destruction of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The OPCW must therefore act without fear or favour in achieving their objectives.

As the international community stands opposed to the use of chemical weapons, we urge those States who have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so as a matter of urgency.



As you are aware, Uganda does not possess, produce or have stockpiles of chemical weapons. However, the support from the Technical Secretariat in the implementation of the programme for Africa has continued to infuse the necessary skills and capacity building within the implementation of the Convention which will assist my country in its economic development. I would like to recognise the efforts of the Technical Secretariat staff who have in the recent past organised training courses where Ugandan Nationals have participated.

My delegation would like to see the full implementation of Article 11 through substantial assistance to non-possessor States in order to enable them to develop chemical capacity and industry. This will facilitate the developing countries to view the Convention as a relevant tool and as a catalyst for economic development through the unlimited use of chemicals for peaceful purposes not prohibited in the Convention. In this respect, my delegation welcomes the development of concrete measures to ensure the promotion of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities through the exchange of scientific and technical information.

Regarding the national implementation of the Convention, the National Authority developed the draft "Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Bill" which has been presented to the cabinet office for approval before presentation to Parliament for debate and enactment into the law. Uganda continues to effectively demonstrate its commitment to the work of this Organisation and this year has cleared all outstanding contribution arrears and the annual contribution for the year 2013 to the OPCW budget.

I would like to congratulate the Director-General for his good gesture in extending the Programme for Africa for another three years. My country, which is a beneficiary of the programme, looks forward to continued cooperation with the Technical Secretariat in order to strengthen the programme through new initiatives and actions that would strategically contribute directly to capacity building and the transfer of the requisite skills to the African States Parties as well as assist them on the timely implementation of the Convention.

Finally, Mr Chairperson,

My delegation wishes to express its appreciation for the professional manner in which the Director-General continues to manage the affairs of the Organisation. We would also like to congratulate the Director-General on his reappointment to continue to lead this Organisation and pledge our full support and cooperation to him as he steers it to maintain its important role of contributing towards global peace and security.

I thank you, and would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

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