



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Nineteenth Session
1 – 5 December 2014

C-19/NAT.48
1 December 2014
ENGLISH only

UGANDA

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

Mr Director-General,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

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

I also take this opportunity to thank the outgoing Chairperson, H.E. Dr Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Iraq to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, for his commitment and hard work as Chairperson of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I have 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.

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 Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons must therefore act without fear or favour in achieving the objectives. As the international community stands opposed to the use of chemical weapons, I urge those States in Africa and the world over that are yet to accede 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 which has in the recent past organised training courses where Ugandan nationals have participated.



My delegation would like to see the full implementation of Article XI 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 Government of Uganda developed the draft “Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control Bill” which was approved by the Cabinet and is now before Parliament and very soon it will be enacted into law.

Uganda continues to effectively demonstrate its commitment to the work of this Organisation and has cleared the annual contribution for the year 2014 to the OPCW budget.

We remain committed to meeting all our obligations in full by implementing our national obligations under the Convention and we continue to do all we can within our abilities to make progress on our national implementation measures.

I appreciate the Director-General’s efforts to strengthen cooperation with African States Parties through the Africa Programme. These efforts provide strategic direction to the engagement with the Technical Secretariat and the African States Parties. 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. This will strategically contribute directly to capacity building and the transfer of the requisite skills to my country as well as assist in the timely implementation of the Convention.

Finally, Madam Chairperson,

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

- - - 0 - - -