



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

AT

THE SECOND REVIEW CONFERENCE

OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

DELIVERED BY

AMB. MIRJAM BLAAK

HEAD OF DELEGATION OF

THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to congratulate you on your election as the Chairperson of the Second Review Conference of States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I am confident that you will guide this Conference to a successful end.

2. The Second Review Conference represents a major milestone in the history of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons which is due to collective efforts of the States Parties and the staff of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW so ably headed by the Secretary General Mr. Rogelio Pfirter. I would like to express my gratitude also to the Chairman of the open-ended Working Group on the Preparation of the Review Conference, His Excellency, Ambassador Lyn Parker of the United Kingdom, for his leadership and contribution to the planning of this Conference.

3. Uganda associates itself with the statements made by the African group and the Non-aligned Movement and China.

4. The OPCW has recorded significant progress in the implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention in the past ten years. In this regard we are near Universality of the Convention in Africa with our neighbour, the Democratic Republic of the Congo recently becoming the 183rd State Party to the CWC. I congratulate Albania for becoming the first possessor State Party to complete the destruction of her chemical weapons stock.

5. Uganda attaches particular importance to the implementation of Article VII which provides for the enactment of national legislation to implement the CWC. In this area raising awareness of the Convention of the Legislators, providing assistance in the drafting of national legislation, is very crucial for the CWC implementation process.

Mr. Chairman,

6. In this regard, I wish to express our appreciation for the financial support we received from the European Union (EU) Joint Action to National Authorities which was used to carry out Sensitisation workshop on Chemical Weapons Convention for Cabinet Ministers, Parliamentarians and other stakeholders organised by Uganda's National Authority on 28 March 2008.

At the end of the Workshop, the legislators resolved:

- i) To express support to the Chemical Weapons Convention as an important disarmament and non-proliferation treaty that eliminates an entire category of Weapons of Mass Destruction,
- ii) Do stress that a national implementing legislation is key to the success of the implementation of the Convention at the national level;
- iii) Do manifest determination to facilitate and support the adoption of the national implementing legislation that will ensure observance of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Uganda;
- iv) To recognise that universality in the membership of the Convention and its appropriate national implementation are guarantees to achieving the objectives and purpose of the

Convention and contribute substantially to international peace and security. This support from legislators will be the backbone for passing the draft National Legislation Bill on “Toxic Chemicals Prohibition and Control” when tabled in Parliament. We would like to recommend that such workshops to be emulated in other countries as it would assist them to comply with the Art. VII provisions.

7. I wish to express our appreciation for the financial support from Czech Republic to East African States Parties to the CWC, and the Technical Secretariat for the implementation of Article X which provides for assistance and protection to States Parties against chemical weapons. Important elements in the implementation of this Article include the need for practical capacity building and the transfer of material and equipment to deal with emergency chemical incidents on a regional basis. The Project has already held two training workshops in the region but requires more throughout the African Continent.

8. The Review Conference should recommend that the current training and assistance programmes of the OPCW, be supported and preferably be increased in order to strengthen national implementation measures of the Convention.

Mr. Chairman

9. Allow me to conclude my short remarks by wishing you and the delegates success in the deliberations to achieve a chemical weapons free world by 2012. Thank you.