

STATEMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
11TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP)

BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ROMEO A. ARGUELLES
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE **PHILIPPINES**
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The Hague, 6 December 2006

MR. CHAIRMAN,

I JOIN EVERYONE PRESENT TODAY IN CONGRATULATING YOU AMBASSADOR DASTIS ON YOUR ELECTION AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THIS YEAR'S SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES. AS ONE OF THE ELECTED VICE CHAIRPERSONS OF THIS CONFERENCE, LET ME ASSURE YOU, AT THIS EARLY STAGE IN MY SPEECH, OF MY DELEGATION'S FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION IN ATTAINING A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME OF THIS CONFERENCE.

MY DELEGATION'S CONGRATULATIONS ALSO GO TO AMBASSADOR JOSE ANTONIO ARROSPIDE OF PERU FOR, WHAT I PERSONALLY RECALL, WAS A TRULY EXCELLENT CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE 10TH CSP. ALL OF US HERE AT OPCW, THE SECRETARIAT AND THE STATE PARTIES, WILL SURELY MISS AMBASSADOR ARROSPIDE'S SUPERIOR DIPLOMATIC AND NEGOTIATING SKILLS WHEN HE GOES BACK TO LIMA. I WISH YOU ALL THE BEST, AMBASSADOR ARROSPIDE.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE AMBASSADOR MKHIZE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WHOSE ABLE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, GUIDED US THROUGH MANY IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS ON MANY CORE ISSUES IN THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

MY DELEGATION LAUDS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, AMBASSADOR ROGELIO PFIRTER, FOR HIS CONTINUOUS EFFECTIVE GUIDANCE TO ALL OF US IN OUR COMMON GOAL OF MAKING THIS WORLD A MORE SECURED PLACE THROUGH THE ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS. I WISH TO THANK HIM FOR HIS INFORMATIVE STATEMENT YESTERDAY ON THE CURRENT STATE OF AFFAIRS WITHIN THE OPCW.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THIS DELEGATION WOULD LIKE TO ECHO WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN SAID BY MANY BEFORE ME AND WILL DEFINITELY BE ADDRESSED BY MANY AFTER ME. THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILES REMAINS THE PRIMARY GOAL OF THE CONVENTION. IT IS TO THE BEST INTEREST OF HUMANITY THAT CHEMICAL WEAPONS BE TOTALLY ELIMINATED. IT IS THEREFORE A CONCERN TO THIS DELEGATION THAT MAJOR POSSESSORS ARE FALLING BEHIND THEIR DESTRUCTION DEADLINES. WE HAVE HEARD AND NOTED, WITH UNDERSTANDING, THE CHALLENGES THAT ARE BEING FACED BY THE POSSESSOR STATES. NEVERTHELESS, WE JOIN MANY IN URGING THEM TO ADHERE TO THE DEADLINE SET FOR THE DESTRUCTION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

AS A VITAL CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY, THE PHILIPPINES FULLY RECOGNIZES THE IMPORTANCE OF ACHIEVING UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION. IT IS FOR THIS REASON THAT THIS DELEGATION WARMLY WELCOMES THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, COMOROS, DJIBOUTI, HAITI, LIBERIA AND MONTENEGRO. THEIR ENTRY, AFTER THE 10TH SESSION OF THIS CONFERENCE, HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF STATES PARTIES

TO 181 AND HAS BROUGHT THIS ORGANIZATION CLOSER TO ITS GOAL OF UNIVERSALITY.

THIS DELEGATION IS CONVINCED THAT THE REMAINING 14 STATES THAT ARE NOT YET PARTY TO THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION (CWC) SHOULD CONTINUOUSLY BE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN THE CONVENTION. WE ARE FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THE ENERGETIC EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARIAT AND SOME STATES PARTIES IN ATTAINING THE IMPORTANT AIM OF UNIVERSAL ADHERENCE.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INFORM ALL PRESENT TODAY THAT, AFTER A LOT OF HARD WORK, THE PHILIPPINES HAS RECENTLY SUBMITTED TO BOTH ITS SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OUR DRAFT NATIONAL LEGISLATION ON THE CONVENTION.

THIS POSITIVE DEVELOPMENT - AND ALL THE WORK THAT WAS PUT INTO IT - SHOWCASES THE PHILIPPINE'S COMMITMENT TO COMPLY WITH ITS OBLIGATIONS IN THE CONVENTION. I HAVE TO MENTION THAT IN DRAFTING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATION, WE RECEIVED VITAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT. FOR THIS, WE ARE GRATEFUL.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

TO FURTHER ELABORATE ON OUR EFFORTS TO COMPLY WITH OUR OBLIGATIONS IN THE CONVENTION, I WISH TO CONVEY THAT, ON THE ISSUE OF INDUSTRY DECLARATIONS, THIS REPRESENTATION HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED ASSISTANCE FROM SOME COUNTRIES. THIS ASSISTANCE IS PRIMARILY AIMED AT IDENTIFYING CHEMICAL INDUSTRY PLAYERS IN THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE HOPE THAT THEY CAN BE BETTER INFORMED OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION.

ON THIS MATTER, I WISH TO THANK CANADA, THE U.S. AND JAPAN FOR GIVING US THEIR INITIAL FEEDBACK ON OUR REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE. WE CONTINUE TO AWAIT THE FEEDBACK OF THE OTHER COUNTRIES.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

AS MY COUNTRY REMAINS COMMITTED TO FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CONVENTION, PLEASE ALSO BE ASSURED THAT WE LIKEWISE REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENSURING A MEANINGFUL COMMEMORATION OF THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2007 OF THE CONVENTION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OPCW AND SUCCESSFUL 2ND REVIEW CONFERENCE IN 2008.

WE HOPE THAT THE ABOVE EVENTS WILL PROVIDE ALL OF US THE OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE THE VISIBILITY OF, AND TO STIMULATE RENEWED PUBLIC INTEREST ON, THE ORGANIZATION AND THE CONVENTION.

MR. CHAIRMAN,

THERE ARE MANY IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED IN THIS SESSION. I DO NOT WISH TO TAKE MORE OF YOUR TIME BUT I DO WISH TO REITERATE TO YOU MY DELEGATION'S FULLEST SUPPORT AND COOPERATION.

THANK YOU.