



OPCW

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ARGENTINA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA AT
THE SIXTEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

First of all, I should like to welcome you as Chairperson of this session of the Conference of the States Parties, as well as the other authorities elected for this session, and to assure you of the support of the Argentine delegation with a view to your leadership guiding us towards a successful result.

This session of the Conference once again presents an opportunity for the Republic of Argentina to demonstrate its commitment to disarmament and non-proliferation, in keeping with the rules of responsible trade and industrial and scientific development and with the needs of national development and creating employment opportunities in our countries.

In the field of international cooperation, which is fundamentally important in the achievement of comprehensive implementation of the Convention, I wish to emphasise the fact that my country takes an active part in the activities conducted by the Organisation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this context, the Republic of Argentina is developing and implementing plans for both regional and bilateral cooperation and training in South America. We should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Technical Secretariat for its cooperation in organising the Regional Meeting of National Authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Buenos Aires from 27 to 29 September 2011.

With regard to the full implementation of international commitments, the Republic of Argentina has sanctioned a legislative scheme which makes our National Authority fully operational and penalises actions which are contrary to the obligations under the Convention. Furthermore, the legislation on control of the transfer of chemicals is being revised to incorporate into our regulations the latest legal developments which have emerged from the experience and implementation of the Convention in the States Parties.

Thus, the Republic of Argentina has succeeded in meeting obligations under Article VII of the Convention, demonstrating its commitment to the Organisation and its clear wish to contribute to the international effort in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation.



Mr Chairperson,

The Sixteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties faces a number of challenges, of which the two most significant are the approval of the budget for the financial year 2012 and the adoption of the decision recommended by the Executive Council at its Thirty-First Meeting on 24 November this year on the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles of 29 April 2012.

With regard to the budget, my delegation wishes to draw attention to the need to provide the Organisation with a budget which enables not only its regular functions to be carried out but which also enables it to make the most of the resources it has available, in order to be able to achieve the objectives for which the Organisation was established. In this context, the Argentine delegation supports the approval without modification of the draft budget drawn up by the Technical Secretariat, and urges delegations to consider this proposal on its own merits and on the basis of technical criteria, regardless of political considerations in respect of the direction of the Organisation, which are a subject for a separate discussion.

As for the draft decision on the final extended deadline, which was submitted to the Conference for approval, we call upon the other participating delegations to recognise the efforts made over the last two years, which have finally made it possible to come up with a proposal which has received virtually unanimous approval from the members of the Executive Council. With this in mind, we urge delegations to reach the consensus which this proposal deserves, at this session of the Conference, enabling the Organisation to have a generally accepted plan and thus, at the same time, to preserve both the Convention and its working methods.

Thank you very much.

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