Draft Resolution

Statement by
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1. The basic goal of the Resolution on the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention is to continue to provide the political support from the United Nations, by consensus, to the prohibition of chemical weapons and for the ongoing successful mission of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. The CWC Resolution remains unique because, as in previous years, both by States Parties as well as Non-States Parties and Signatory States expressed support for the Resolution and readiness to join consensus on the proposed draft.

2. The draft text of the Resolution underlines that the Convention and its implementation contribute to enhancing international peace and security and emphasises that the full, universal, non-discriminatory and effective implementation of the CWC will contribute further to that purpose.

3. The draft Resolution is of special importance this year because of the results of the Second Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Convention (The Second Review Conference – TSRC) that took place in April 2008 and approved a consensus Final Report.

4. As in previous years a proposed draft contains new elements to reflect, in an objective and balanced manner, the process of the ongoing CWC implementation. All the proposed changes, following the well-established practice, have been taken from the consensus language of the OPCW Policy Making Organs in The Hague, namely from the consensus Final Report of the Second Review Conference.

5. Following the well-established practice in our work in the First Committee we are not changing or improving language adopted by our delegations in the Policy-Making Organs in the Hague. We also followed the practice that we are not negotiating at the United Nations the CWC implementation issues.

6. The main features of the draft Resolution, as in previous years, include:
   - The Resolution emphasises the importance of the universality of the Convention. It calls upon all the States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention without delay.
   - The Resolution confirms the importance to the Convention that all possessors of chemical weapons, chemical weapons production facilities or chemical weapons development facilities, including previously declared possessor States, should be among the States parties to the Convention, and welcomes progress to that end.
   - The CWC Resolution reaffirms the obligation of the States Parties to destroy chemical weapons within the time limits provided for in the Convention.
• The Resolution notes that the effective application of the verification system builds confidence in compliance with the Convention by States parties, and stresses the importance of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in verifying compliance with the provisions of the Convention as well as in promoting the timely and efficient accomplishment of all its objectives.

• The Resolution makes a special emphasis on maintaining the importance of the Action Plan on the Implementation of Article VII (national implementation measures) and welcomes progress made in the implementation of the Action Plan on the Implementation of Article VII obligations and commend the States parties and the Technical Secretariat for assisting other States parties on request with the implementation of their Article VII obligations. It will urge States parties that have not fulfilled their obligations under Article VII to do so without further delay;

• The CWC Resolution stresses that the full and effective implementation of all provisions of the Convention is in itself an important contribution to the efforts of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. This resolution is the first reference in any of the UNGA resolutions stressing the importance of national implementation of a disarmament treaty in the fight against terrorism.

7. The new elements in the draft repeat the relevant provisions of the consensus language of the TSRC final document of the Second Review Conference.

8. New elements in the preamble of the draft place the CWC and its unique features (comprehensive ban on an entire category of WMD and non-discriminatory character) in the multilateral treaty system (PP 5) by stressing that eleven years after its entry into force, the Chemical Weapons Convention remains a unique multilateral agreement banning an entire category of weapons of mass destruction in a non-discriminatory and verifiable manner under strict and effective international control.

9. Operational part of the Resolution contains the following new elements:

• The draft resolution emphasises, for the first time, the continuing relevance and importance of Article X and welcomes activities of the Organisation in relation to assistance and protection against chemical weapons;

• The draft also reaffirms, for the first time, that the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner that avoids hampering the economic or technological development of States parties and international cooperation. Emphasis on Article X and economic and technological development and international cooperation reflect the debate and outcomes of TSRC.

10. As in previous years Poland remains a sole sponsor of the CWC Resolution. A sole sponsorship will assist to ensure regional and political balance and broad support for the Resolution.