
Mr. Chairman,

The existence of weapons of mass destruction continues to be a serious threat to international peace and security.

The efforts made by the States in disarmament processes must be aimed at the complete and total elimination of such weapons and at the prevention of the emergence of new kinds of weapons of mass destruction. We reaffirm the relevance that all States comply with their obligations in relation to arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects.

Cuba does not possess nor has the intention to ever possess any kind of weapons of mass destruction. As State Party to the international legal instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, Cuba renews its firm commitment to the complete and effective implementation of all their provisions.

In the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention, Cuba continues to play an active role by urging that the application of said instrument has a balanced approach on the implementation of its two fundamental pillars: disarmament, including verification and international assistance and cooperation. We also support all actions aimed at achieving the universal character of the Convention.

The total destruction of chemical weapons, including abandoned chemical weapons, within time limits, is and will continue to be the main goal of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). It is imperative that major countries possessing chemical weapons strictly comply with destruction deadlines already extended, since otherwise, the credibility and integrity of the Chemical Weapons Convention would be at risk.

By promoting international assistance and cooperation, OPCW plays a significant role in fostering the economic and technological progress of States Parties, particularly the least developed ones. Therefore, together with the rest of NAM Member States, Cuba advocates the full implementation of Article XI of the Convention, and promotes concrete actions to achieve such purpose.

It is imperative to eliminate discriminatory restrictions that are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Chemical Weapons Convention, which some States continue to impose on certain States Parties, regarding transfers for the peaceful use of chemical materials, equipment, and technology.
Mr. Chairman,

Cuba reiterates its unequivocal commitment to the Biological Weapons Convention and supports all actions undertaken to achieve its universality. The possibility of any use of bacteriological and toxin agents as weapons must be completely eliminated. The follow-up mechanism implemented during the Sixth Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention is, beyond doubts, a useful tool for the exchange of national experiences and a forum for consultation.

Cuba believes that the only way to really strengthen and improve the Convention is by negotiating and adopting a legally-binding Protocol that is effective against the production, storage, transfer, and use of biological weapons. This Protocol should include balanced and broad verification of all articles of the Convention.

In this context, we reiterate our call to promote international cooperation for peaceful purposes, including scientific exchange.

Mr. Chairman,

My country shares the legitimate international concern over the risk that terrorist groups acquire weapons of mass destruction. We insist that such risk cannot be eliminated through a selective approach that is limited to horizontal proliferation and disregards vertical proliferation and disarmament. If we really want to combat the possible use of weapons of mass destruction by terrorists, urgent progress is required in the area of disarmament, including the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction.

Cuba stresses the need to ensure that no measure adopted by the Security Council undermines the key role of the UN General Assembly and the current multilateral treaties on weapons of mass destruction. We also reiterate that the selective and discriminatory initiatives promoted by groups of countries, outside the multilateral framework, instead of contributing, are weakening the role of the UN in the fight against weapons of mass destruction in all its aspects.

Allow me to conclude, Mr. Chairman, by reaffirming the commitment of Cuba to the complete elimination of weapons of mass destruction. Cuba will contribute to the fullest extent possible to reinforce the key role of the United Nations in this regard, and reiterates its call for the general and complete disarmament, under an effective and strict international control, including the prohibition of all weapons of mass destruction.

Thank you.