Statement of the Delegation of the Republic of Iraq

By

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At

The Thematic Debate on item "Other Weapons of Mass Destruction"

At the First Committee of the 66th Session of the UN General Assembly

New York, 17 October 2011
Mr. President,

Thank you for the opportunity to deliver this statement under the item (other weapons of Mass Destruction). On this occasion my delegation would like to shed light on the great efforts made by Iraq regarding its obligations within the provisions stated in the Convention on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

My Government has been committed, since the fall of the former regime in 2003, to an open policy towards the International community in implementing international obligations, at the forefront, the prohibition of the production and development of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Weapons and their delivery methods. My government is also dedicated to adopting a new way of dealing with the International community, a way that is based on building and strengthening trust and transparency, thus restoring the natural International status that Iraq had before Security Council Resolution (661) in 1990. My Government has taken a number of national procedures and steps on the executive and legislative levels to prevent proliferation and to dispose of the remnants of previous programs in this field in accordance with Article (9/E) of the Iraqi Constitution.

Mr. President,

On December 12, 2009, Iraq acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of Chimerical Weapons (CWC) to become the 186th member of the convention. Iraq is seeking to meet all of its obligations and perform all of the steps that would make Iraq a country free from these destructive weapons. A short time after acceding to the Convention, Iraq obtained the membership of the Organization to Prohibit Chemical Weapons (OPCW) from 2010 until 2012. The Iraqi Government considers this is an additional and important step towards trust building with the International Community and a step towards regaining its international status. Due to the great importance that the Iraqi Government pays towards the subject of disposing the remnants of the former chemical program, Iraq made great efforts to accelerate the preparation of the destruction plan. Iraq submitted primary presentation to OPCW regarding the disposal of this program’s remnants. In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to review the latest updates
and developments achieved by Iraq regarding the disposal project of the decommissioned AL Muthana Facility.

The advisory committee in charge of decommissioning the storage facilities held regular meetings chaired by the Minister of Science of Technology; the results of these meetings are as follows:

- Ratifying of the Esteemed Council of Ministers on the first stage of the project.

- Completing the naming of the Project’s Manger who made field visits and started forming the working group.

- Granting the approval for the funds assigned for the project.

I would also like to point out the continuation of the technical deliberations with related countries interested in helping Iraq in order to reach a safe and secure way of disposing of the remnants left in these storage facilities. My delegation extends its highly appreciation for the efforts made by these countries in helping Iraq in this field.

Mr. President,

My Government has invited, as part of its efforts to build trust and transparency with the international community, OPCW to conduct an inspection visit to Iraq as part of the Organization’s obligations towards Iraq. The first successful inspection visit by the Technical team of the Secretariat of the Organization to Prohibit Chemical Weapons was conducted from May for the period from 1-5 of May 2011. This visit witnessed cooperation between the two sides; Iraq provided the flexibility necessary to the success of the team’s visit. The Head of the inspection team affirmed the success of the visit on all levels and he praised the flexibility that Iraq showed. The General Director of the Organization also praised the excellent support that Iraq provided to the Organization and to its inspection team in a letter that he sent.
Mr. President,

Within the framework of implementing the obligations mentioned in Security Council Resolution 1957 on December 15, 2010, H.E the Minister of Foreign Affairs addressed two letters to H.E the Speaker of the Iraqi Parliament in which he called on him to encourage the parliament to accelerate the adoption of legislation in the field of Disarmament, which includes the enactment of the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate law.

Among trust building and transparency steps with the International Community that Iraq was eager to implement them, was the adoption of a number of control procedures on the importation of dual-use materials. This was done in accordance with Iraq’s obligations to the related Security Council Resolutions; a plan was created for the import and export system involving the Minister of Trade, Ministry of Science and Technology and the Customs Authority.

Thank you...