

Uganda seeks support for non-lethal chemical use

BY FRANKLIN DRAKU

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KAMPALA. Uganda has called for increased cooperation at the international level to help developing countries build non-prohibited chemical capacity and industry to spur economic development.

Mr Pius Bigirimana, the Gender ministry permanent secretary and head of Uganda National Authority for the Implementation of Chemical Weapons Convention, made the call on Monday while delivering a keynote address at the ongoing 22nd session of the conference of the State Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention at The Hague, Netherlands.

Mr Bigirimana, cited Article XI of the Convention which speaks about achieving economic and technological development through substantial assistance to non-possessor states in order to enable them develop chemical capacity and industry, according to a statement issued by the Gender ministry.

The Article provides that "the convention shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of state parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under this convention including the international exchange of scientific and technical information and chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under this convention."

“The Uganda delegation welcomes the development of concrete measures to ensure the promotion of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities through the exchange of scientific and technical information,”

PIUS BIGIRIMANA, GENDER MINISTRY PS

"My delegation would like to see the full implementation of Article Eleven (XI) through substantial assistance to non-possessor states. This will facilitate the developing countries to view the convention as a relevant tool and as a catalyst for economic development through the unlimited use of chemicals for peaceful purposes not prohibited in the convention," Mr Bigirimana stated.

Mr Bigirimana said Uganda had successfully hosted members from state parties in the East African region for the Second Operational Training in Emergency Response to Chemical Incident or attack, which took place in Jinja from November 1 to 8.

The training aimed at equipping the participants with knowledge and skills in handling emergencies involving toxic chemicals. It was facilitated by experts from the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

A total of 35 participants from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda attended.

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