



**INDIA**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. REENAT SANDHU  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE HUNDREDDH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
05-08 JULY 2022**

Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

India welcomes the distinguished Ambassador of Saudi Arabia His Excellency Ziad M. D. Al Atiyah as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We are confident that you will steer the session in a consultative manner. We assure you full support and cooperation of the Indian delegation.

We value the efforts of the Technical Secretariat under the leadership of Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias towards implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”).

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic

of Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention.

India congratulates the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Convention. On this occasion, India reaffirms its steadfast commitment for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention and supports efforts to achieve its universality. India firmly believes that impartiality and integrity of OPCW must be preserved and maintained under all circumstances.

It is commendable that around 99 per cent of the declared chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed under verification and we hope that the destruction of the remaining stockpiles will be completed within the scheduled deadline. We note the reports of the Director General on Article VI inspections. Despite the challenges posed by the pandemic, India has actively cooperated with the OPCW for inspections of our declared industrial facilities. We hope that the industry inspections in other States Parties shall be conducted in a timely manner, as part of the normal verification activities under the Convention.

India condemns the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody and under any circumstances. We believe that all investigations into the alleged use of chemical weapons should be impartial and objective,

and should be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

India stands for promotion of peaceful uses of chemical technology and enhancing international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited as laid out in Article XI of the Convention. We appreciate Technical Secretariat for providing online capacity building and training opportunities. In April this year, India in collaboration with the Technical Secretariat, conducted a programme for enhancing skills in analysis of chemicals and sharing best practices in laboratory skills. The programme was held for the fourth time and has trained experts from more than 50 States Parties including from GRULAC and Africa regions. India will continue to contribute to OPCW in its capacity building efforts.

We welcome the start of the preparations for the Fifth Review Conference by the Open-Ended Working Group. We would like the preparation process to be based on constructive engagement, unity of purpose and shared commitment to advance balanced implementation of the Convention by the States Parties. In this context, we emphasize the importance of the principle of consensus and the need for decisions to be taken by the States Parties collectively in close consultation and cooperation with each other.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session and posted on the external server and the public website.

Thank you.

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