

**BANGLADESH Statement** by H E Ambassador M Riaz Hamidullah,  
Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the OPCW  
at the Fifth Session of the Review Conference

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**Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Director-General,  
Members of the scientific community, civil society, NGOs,**

Bangladesh felicitates Ambassador van der Kwast on his Chairmanship of this Review Conference; and also to Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, for his deft leadership in shaping the outcome document of the RevCon, as the Chair of the Open-Ended Working Group.

We applaud Director-General Fernando Arias for his leadership of the Technical Secretariat. We further acknowledge the Scientific Advisory Board for their fifth report underlining the developments in science and technology relevant to the Convention.

Bangladesh associates with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the NAM Member State Parties to the CWC and China.

We have five points to make.

*First*, in the two decades, OPCW has accomplished exemplary feat A in controlling and making the world permanently free of chemical weapons. No longer should it be a choice, rather a global public good, a shared aspiration. While we look forward to completion of destruction of all remaining Chemical Weapons by this year end, having the few remaining States on board is equally crucial. We must mobilise our individual and collective goodwill and reach to ensure that no actor anywhere engages in any activity that amount to disrupt our achievements.

*Second*, Bangladesh remains steadfast in fulfilling her obligations under the Convention, including under Article VII of the Convention. On that score, greater support of the TS would be crucial, especially in supporting the States Parties from the developing world to fully implement their national obligations and to deal with any threat of chemical terrorism or abuse thereof.

*Third*, in the post-destruction phase, enhancing international cooperation and capacity-building, as provided under Article XI of the Convention, would be important. As the use

of chemicals across our lives and economic activities increase and economic and technological development enhance, international cooperation for peaceful use of chemistry would assume significance. All challenges that impede effective and non-discriminatory capacity building, knowledge transfer and sustainable, climate-friendly chemical industrialization should be addressed. TS and the ChemTech Centre should deepen work on innovative educational and tailor-made capacity-building programs, institutional collaboration, laboratory upgradation, regional best-practice sharing, scholarship programs and funded Junior Professional Officers in that direction.

*Fourth*, inauguration of the Chem Tech Centre presents a milestone moment for us all. We look at it to serve as a hub for training, capacity building, research and handholding on knowledge cooperation for among all the States Parties. As a developing country, Bangladesh would wish the Centre to provide state-of-the-art facilities – equipment – expertise as also knowledge in analytical chemistry, chemical security, safeguards in use of newer chemicals and in the growing interface of chemistry-biology-AI.

Finally, how do we see the future OPCW. Consensus and spirit of cooperation among all States Parties is so crucial in our quest for non-proliferation or prevention of the use or re-emergence of chemical weapons. It is crucial to uphold the provisions of the Convention.

As an inter-governmental organization, balance in its professional demography is crucial, in respect of geography as also gender. With regard to the Director-General's leadership and autonomy, transparency in recruitment is key to redeem its true global character. A diverse workforce surely will foster inclusion, innovation and lead to effective decision-making, towards achieving a world free of chemical weapons. Bangladesh strongly calls for an Open-Ended Working Group as many States Parties called for.

We would request for this statement to be circulated in OPCW catalyst and public website as an official document of the 5<sup>th</sup> Review Conference.

Thank you.

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