



**OPCW**

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**BANGLADESH**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR M RIAZ HAMIDULLAH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH TO THE OPCW AT THE  
FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION**

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

Bangladesh felicitates H.E. Ambassador van der Kwast on his Chairpersonship of the Fifth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (Fifth Review Conference); and also to H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, for his deft leadership in shaping the outcome document of the Fifth Review Conference, as the Chairperson 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 Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

We have five points to make.

First, in the last two decades, OPCW has accomplished an exemplary feat 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 the end of this year, 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 amounts to the disruption of our achievements.

Second, Bangladesh remains steadfast in fulfilling its obligations under the Convention, including under Article VII of the Convention. On that score, greater support of the Technical Secretariat 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 the peaceful use of chemistry would assume significance. All challenges that impede effective and non-discriminatory capacity building, knowledge transfer and sustainable, climate-friendly chemical industrialisation should be addressed. The Technical Secretariat and the ChemTech Centre should deepen work on innovative educational and tailor-made capacity-building programmes, institutional collaboration, laboratory upgradation, regional best-practice sharing, scholarship programmes and funded Junior Professional Officers in that direction.

Fourth, inauguration of the ChemTech 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 among all the States Parties. As a developing country, Bangladesh would wish the centre to provide state-of-the-art facilities, equipment, and expertise in knowledge of 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 Organisation, balance in its professional demography is crucial, in respect of geography and 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 on this as many States Parties have also called for.

We would request for this statement to be treated as an official document of the Fifth Review Conference and uploaded on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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