



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Third Session  
19, 20 and 29 November 2018

C-23/NAT.7  
20 November 2018  
ENGLISH only

**BANGLADESH**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH  
TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
EXPLANATION OF VOTE UNDER AGENDA ITEM 12**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Members of Civil Society, NGOs and Media,  
Dear Colleagues,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

We voted 'yes' but we could not say for sure that it was the best decision we made. We nonetheless voted 'yes' as we would like to see the continuation of the good work of the OPCW.

We voted 'yes' to uphold the spirit of the Articles X, XIII and XXI of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention"). However, we ought to register our growing discomfort at the activation of the attribution mechanism at the 32 Johan de Wittlaan, The Hague and would very much like to see that back to the United Nations Security Council in New York-preferably under an arrangement of moratorium on veto-for as much time as possible, on matters relating to the Fact-Finding Mission's (FFM) determined incidents of use of chemical weapons.

For a developing country like Bangladesh, which depends on the OPCW and its States Parties for a host of capacity building assistance, it is incumbent on us to make sure that this Organisation is provided with the resources so that it can continue its good works to make us safe and help us protect from chemical weapons.

When we were eagerly waiting to see the end point of mankind's ideological duality and the growing resolve of working together for the cause of humanity, we were forced to witness the endless filibuster and thereby sucking our much precious time with a negative rate of return. Thereby making us poorer, as a body, where we were forced to do things opposite to what the Convention asked of us.

There is a proverb in our part of the world that I quote: "Even at times of poverty, one shall not lose integrity and honesty", unquote.



The Bangladesh delegation would humbly like to appeal to all, to please help us to uphold our last vestiges of consensus for the cause of disarmament.

When we should have better spent our time and resources to plug the holes of the Convention, if any, we were rather made victims of the bullets of duality. We are so scared at the growing divergence, mostly among the superpowers; we almost lost our vocabulary to plead and making an emphatic appeal to come to our senses to uphold our promise of “never again”.

We, therefore, urge all States Parties to this august body that there is no greater task than that of avoiding another use of chemical weapons. While preserving the clauses of Convention, we must come to a consensus so that no one dares to use chemical weapons or chemicals as weapons ever again, at any time, at any place and under any circumstances.

--- 0 ---