



INDIA

**NATIONAL STATEMENT AT THE NINETY NINTH SESSION
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF OPCW
08 MARCH-11 MARCH 2022**

Chairperson,
Director-General,
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

India is glad to see the Ambassador of Nigeria, Dr Eniola Olaitan Ajayi as the Chair of the Executive Council. Indian delegation would like to assure you of full cooperation and constructive participation in the deliberations of the session. We also express appreciation for Ambassador Gudrun Lingner of Germany for her role as Acting Chair of the Council.

We appreciate the efforts made by the Technical Secretariat under the leadership of Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias towards implementation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of NAM States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

India attaches great importance to full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We support efforts to achieve universality of the Convention.

We note the reports by the Director-General on progress in the destruction of remaining chemical weapons stockpiles. It is important that progress in the destruction of the remaining chemical weapons stockpiles is accelerated so as to achieve complete destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles within the agreed timeline.

India reaffirms its firm opposition to any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody, and under any circumstances. We believe that any allegation of use of chemical weapons must be dealt strictly as per the provisions and procedures laid down in the Convention, and concerns must be addressed through consultation and cooperation among all parties concerned. All investigations in this regard should be impartial and objective and must strive to establish facts and reach evidence-based conclusions.

We take note of the reports of the Director-General on Progress in the Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons Programme and reports of the OPCW Fact Finding Mission. We urge cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat to resolve the outstanding issues.

India stands for the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI, as well as the promotion of peaceful uses of chemical technology and enhancing international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited in the Convention. It is important that the OPCW programmes on promotion of chemical safety and security, capacity building, technical assistance and international cooperation are implemented fully. India will continue to contribute to OPCW in its capacity building efforts.

We remain firm in our conviction that differences should be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy. We urge States Parties to come together and constantly strive for consultation, cooperation and consensus.

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.
