



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twenty-Sixth Session
29 November – 3 December 2021

C-26/NAT.18
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ENGLISH only

BANGLADESH

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR M RIAZ HAMIDULLAH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF
BANGLADESH TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES
EXPLANATION OF VOTE
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 26**

Mr Chairperson,

The Bangladesh delegation abstained on the vote on the just adopted decision on the “Aerosolised Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals for Law Enforcement Purposes”. We maintained the same stance at the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council earlier in March 2021 as well.

Although this may not be fully consistent with our expectations, nonetheless we abstained as our National Authorities considered wider and evolving use of the central nervous system-acting chemicals (CNS-acting chemicals) across diverse fields of development. We also carefully weighed the ongoing discussions within the Scientific Advisory Board on the matter.

Bangladesh would like to place on record that the law enforcement agencies in Bangladesh neither possess nor use aerosolised CNS-acting chemicals, in any form. Our National Authorities also underlined the need for continuing discussions, beyond the adoption of this decision today.

My delegation would also underscore to all States Parties to uphold the OPCW’s ‘technical nature’; and would stress that conclusion on a matter as this should not have been addressed through a vote, as a matter of principle.

I would request to record and circulate this statement as an official document of the Twenty-Sixth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and to post it on the OPCW external server.

Thank you.

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