



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**INDIA**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

India is glad to see the Ambassador of Nigeria, Dr Eniola Olaitan Ajayi as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. The Indian delegation would like to assure you of its 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 Chairperson of the Council.

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

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by distinguished Ambassador Fikrat Akhundov, Permanent Representative 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.

India attaches great importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the 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 anyone, and under any circumstances. We believe that any allegation of use of chemical weapons must be dealt with 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 the 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 the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. It is important that the OPCW programmes on the promotion of chemical safety and security, capacity building, technical assistance, and international cooperation are implemented fully. India will continue to contribute to the 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.

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