



STATEMENT BY INDIA
AT THE 103rd SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
11-14 July, 2023

Mr. Chairperson,
Director General
Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates,

1. Indian delegation welcomes His Excellency Lucian Fătu, Ambassador of Romania, as the Chair of the Executive Council. We assure full cooperation and support for successful conclusion of the 103rd session of the Council.
2. We applaud the work of the Technical Secretariat, led by Director-General Fernando Arias, towards implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
3. My delegation associates itself with the written statement submitted by NAM States Parties to this Council.
4. India attaches great importance to the Chemical Weapons Convention and stands for its full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation. The universal adherence to the Convention is critical to achieving comprehensive and verifiable disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons. We urge the remaining States that

are not Parties to the Convention to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest.

5. We welcome the historic milestone of complete destruction of chemical weapon declared stockpiles under OPCW verification on 7 July 2023. We commend USA for achieving the completion before the targeted timeline of September this year.

6. India welcomes the resumption of consultations between Syrian Arab Republic and Technical Secretariat with their meeting in Beirut on 22-23 June 2023 and urge continued and effective engagement between both sides with the aim to resolve all outstanding issues in the spirit of trust and constructive cooperation.

7. India reiterates the need for impartial and objective investigation into any use of chemical weapons, following scrupulously the provisions of the Convention, procedure embedded within it, and in conformity with the delicate balance of power and responsibility enshrined under it, to establish the facts and to reach evidence-based conclusions.

8. We note the report of Director-General on Article VI inspections. India, once again, emphasizes the need to adapt the verification and inspection regime, in light of growing chemical industry and rapid advancements in science and technology. India has submitted a working paper on the subject during the Fifth Review Conference. We urge States Parties and Technical Secretariat to undertake a comprehensive review of the risk-assessment methodology for inspection for Schedule II, Schedule III and OCPF facilities.

9. India strongly supports international cooperation among States Parties and promotion of peaceful uses of chemistry within the

framework of the Convention. Since 2018, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology has collaborated with the Technical Secretariat for conducting Analytical Skills Development Course. The training has benefitted 106 participants from 46 States Parties of the Global South and directly contributed to enhancing skills in the analysis of chemicals relevant to the Convention and knowledge sharing on laboratory best practices. My delegation is happy to inform this Council that the seventh batch of the training will take place in India from 4-15 September 2023.

10. We welcome the recommendation made by the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO) to foster engagement with academic institutions in all regions and develop a network of partnerships with academic and research institutions. We encourage the new ChemTech Centre to build a network of stakeholders from academia, chemical industry, research centres and laboratories all over the world. India stands ready to contribute to ChemTech Centre's capacity building activities.

11. India is happy to partner with Kenya for the Mentorship & Partnership Programme this year under the aegis of OPCW and looks forward to contributing to strengthening national implementation by sharing best practices between our National Authorities.

12. We support all efforts of the OPCW on developing best practices in the area of chemical safety and security and the counterterrorism aspects of international trade in chemicals that will make a significant and effective contribution towards global efforts against terrorism.

13. The Fifth Review Conference gave us an opportunity to take stock of the work done by OPCW in the last five years and also make recommendations for the future work under the Convention. While it

was unfortunate that there was no consensus outcome document, the Conference succeeded in undertaking a comprehensive review as mandated by the Convention. We appreciate the reflections submitted to the Council by Ambassador Henk Cor van der Kwast of the Netherlands as the Chair of the Fifth Review Conference.

14. India emphasizes the importance of consensus and the need for all decisions to be taken by the States Parties in consultation with each other. We urge States Parties to continue to discuss and work together to take forward the work on which consensus was achieved during the Review Conference such as adapting the verification and inspection regime, improving geographical representation and external engagement among others.
