



**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF INDIA**  
**106<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**9-12 July 2024**

Chairperson,  
Director-General &  
Distinguished delegates

1. The Indian delegation congratulates His Excellency Andrés Terán Parral, Ambassador of Ecuador, on assuming Chairmanship of the Executive Council. We look forward to having a very fruitful and productive session under your able leadership. We thank the outgoing Chair, His Excellency, Lucian Fatu, Ambassador of Romania, for all his efforts.
2. We also commend the Technical Secretariat, led by Director-General Fernando Arias for its commitment towards supporting the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention.
3. India attaches great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. As an original signatory, we support all efforts to achieve its universality and urge the States that are not Parties, to join at the earliest.
4. The destruction of all declared stockpiles of chemical weapons last year was an important milestone in the history of the OPCW. It is now incumbent upon us to remain vigilant and collectively strive to prevent any re-emergence of chemical weapons. Universal adherence to the Convention and full and effective national implementation, should, therefore, remain of utmost priority for the OPCW.
5. India's position on chemical weapons has been clear and consistent. We are firmly opposed to any use or threat of use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody and under any circumstances. We reiterate the need for an impartial and objective investigation into any alleged use of chemical weapons by the OPCW to establish the facts and reach evidence-based conclusions. However, this should be done strictly as per the provisions of the Convention, while respecting the delicate balance of power and responsibilities enshrined under it.
6. As an active supporter of international cooperation under OPCW, India is contributing in capacity building of States Parties through conducting mentorship

for interested States Parties, industry support to the Associate Programme and training of chemists under the Analytical Skills Development Courses.

7. We are happy to inform this Council that the India-Kenya mentorship & partnership programme under OPCW is progressing well and the two National Authorities are closely working together. From 3-7 June, experts from National Authority of India had a productive visit to Kenya and shared our best practices. In the second part of the programme, we look forward to receiving a delegation from Kenya to visit India in September. India is ready to extend similar mentorship support to other interested States Parties as well. We encourage the Secretariat to consider designing targeted mentorship programmes, wherein more Member States, who have similar needs assessment, could jointly participate and benefit at the same time.

8. We note the reports by Director General on transfer of funds, in particular, the transfer of funds from International Cooperation and Assistance budget for allocation to administrative purposes and request the Secretariat to consider possible solutions to ensure proper utilisation of the resources for the purpose allocated.

9. The growth in chemical industry and rapid advancements in science and technology merit a comprehensive review of the risk-assessment methodology applied by the Technical Secretariat for Schedule II, Schedule III and OCPF facilities. We appreciate the work of Industry Cluster in this regard and will remain engaged with other States Parties to ensure that the verification and inspection regime is 'fit for future'.

10. India supports full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention, including the economic and technological development of the States Parties and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. In our view, the 'dual-use' dilemma should not deter us from pursuing new frontiers of chemical technology and scientific know-how.

11. It is important to address emerging challenges such as the discovery of new toxic chemicals, technological advancements in the deployment of chemical weapons and threats posed by non-State actors. We appreciate ongoing efforts to develop best practices in the area of chemical safety and security and the counter-terrorism aspects of international trade in chemicals.

12. The ChemTech Centre has completed one year since its establishment and we encourage the Centre to prioritize on capacity building of States Parties. In this regard, we hope that the Centre can build a network of stakeholders from academia, chemical industry, research centres and laboratories across geographical regions. We are happy to partner in this effort through collaboration with relevant scientific and academic institutions in India.

13. Before I conclude, let me reiterate the importance of consensus building in the functioning of the OPCW and the need for all States Parties to work together for a world free of chemical weapons and take all decisions in a spirit of cooperation. My delegation would also emphasize the importance of due consultations and ensuring that views of all member states are taken on board on all issues impacting the present and future work of the OPCW.

14. 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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