

**Briefing by H.E. Ambassador TAN Jian, Permanent Representative of China on  
Shanghai AI Workshop under Agenda Item 10 "Emerging Technology" at  
the 109<sup>th</sup> Session of OPCW Executive Council  
(10 July 2025, The Hague)**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues,

I wish to brief the Executive Council on the first International Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Chemical Safety and Security Management, held from 17-20 of June in Shanghai.

**The Workshop was well-organized, by China and the OPCW.**

On the Chinese side: Ministries of Industry and Information Technology, Foreign Affairs, National Defense, the Shanghai Municipal Government, China-BRICS Artificial Intelligence Development and Cooperation Center, some universities and companies contributed to the Workshop.

Top experts were invited by China and the OPCW to give presentations. There were Chinese experts from universities, research institutes, AI and chemical companies.

There were also international speakers from UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, IBM Research Europe, Evonik company, Morocco, Germany, Switzerland, etc.

Many participants expressed their appreciation for the level and diversity of speakers for the Workshop, and the way lectures were complemented with two on-site visits.

**The Workshop was well-attended.**

Nearly 50 participants from about 30 State Parties of every regional group participated.

About 80% of the participants are from the South. Some African and GRULAC colleagues came self-funded, and some flew more than 40 hours to Shanghai.

The Director-General delivered a keynote speech at the opening ceremony, so did the Vice Minister of China Industry and Information Technology, Vice Mayor of Shanghai.

Mr. Chairperson,

AI is a game-changer. It will change human future. It could profoundly impact the work of OPCW. We need to seize the opportunities and confront the challenges. AI should not be game over for us.

**There is a growing call from the developing countries for AI capacity building.**

It is essential that they can participate in global AI governance, benefit from and contribute to AI-related chemical industry development and security.

Given that the majority of OPCW members are from the South, this is also about the relevance of OPCW.

That explains the Workshop. In its organization, efforts have been made to link AI with chemistry.

The Workshop mainly addresses 4 key topics:

- A. The development of AI technology and AI governance,
- B. The impact of AI on chemistry and chemical research,
- C. The AI-driven innovation and its applications in chemical industry, safety and security,
- D. The opportunities and challenges of AI for the CWC implementation.

**There are opportunities. AI has already been applied in chemical research, production and enhancing chemical security and safety.**

In CWC implementation, AI has demonstrated promising empowering potential in areas such as enhancing data analysis accuracy, inspection efficiency, and capacity building effectiveness.

Some scientists place hope on AI-driven warning systems and material monitoring, to identify potentially dangerous molecules; place hope on AI-powered risk prediction, through molecular analysis, synthesis route evaluation.

AI could help countries especially the developing ones to enhance the safety of their chemical industry and reduce accidents.

It is also our hope that AI could be used to speed up the destruction of the Japanese abandoned chemical weapons on the territory of China.

**Challenges include dual-use dilemmas, data security threats, deepfake information and chemical terrorism.**

AI could largely lower the technical threshold for malicious actors to access and produce chemical weapons, expedite the discovery of new, more deadly chemical weapons.

According to some experts, AI could discover novel synthetic pathways to bypass existing regulations. The design of novel dangerous molecules by AI could be difficult to be identified as chemical warfare agents. AI may autonomously discover and synthesize novel inorganic compounds, surpassing human capabilities in both speed and precision.

They are detrimental to the implementation of the Convention, and the CWC non-proliferation mechanism.

Experts have made proposals on AI and Chemical Safety and Security Management.

Mr. Chairperson,

Workshop participants wanted to know the big picture -- what other organizations are doing in this regard. It seems that international approach on AI is fragmented.

Here, I wish to highlight one point.

**AI is a bandwagon on which many international organizations are jumping.**

I recall in February 2023, The Kingdom of the Netherlands hosted a Summit on Responsible Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain at the nearby World Forum. It called for the responsible development, deployment and use of AI in the military domain.



For the OPCW, it is the use of AI for a complete ban on chemical weapons, anytime, anywhere, under any circumstances.

That's why we need to take the AI and chemical weapon issues seriously and urgently.

On this note, I wish to thank the DG for his foresight and commitment.

**In addition to the in-room discussions, two on-site visits were organized.**

The first visit was to Shanghai University. In its AI Materials Laboratory and Engineering Training Center, participants observed in first-hand the actual use of AI technology in R&D, such as the smart production, the immersive virtual training, humanoid robots.

The second visit was to Shanghai Chemical Industry Park, during which the Chinese practices of chemical development, chemical emergency response and CWC implementation were shared.

These field trips helped bridge theory and practice.

Mr. Chairperson,

In 2023, China put forward the Global AI Governance Initiative.

In 2024, the United Nations General Assembly adopted unanimously a China-tabled resolution on "Enhancing International Cooperation on Capacity-Building of Artificial Intelligence".

After that, China launched the AI Capacity-Building Action Plan for Good and for All.

China has not only put forward initiatives, but also taken actions.

This Workshop is a case in point.

There are great interest and high expectation. Many delegations spoke in praise about the Workshop in the General Debate.

This Workshop is called the first capacity building project on AI, meaning not a one-time project.

China advocates AI for all. Capacity-building is the cornerstone of China's AI governance initiatives.

We are willing to continue our contribution, not just on financial terms, more of human and knowledge support.

We will continue our cooperation with the TS, with other States Parties.

Mr. Chairperson,

OPCW is about chemicals. Hope there could be chemistry in this organization.

This may sound like a far cry, given the polarized views on some issues.

But the Shanghai Workshop shows that there is much common ground, including on issues as important as AI.

I have learned that last year, China and the US supported and co-sponsored each other's AI resolution at the United Nations General Assembly, which were adopted unanimously.

Geopolitics should not stand in the way of global cooperation, for a world free of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson and dear colleagues,

In conclusion,

We sincerely thank the TS for the successful joint-venture.

We highly appreciate Member States' interest, support and participation.

We thank the scientists and experts wholeheartedly for their contribution to the Workshop, and their valuable work in this important field.

We welcome feedback from the participants, and advises on how to improve.

Thank you for your attention.