

Bangladesh Intervention on Agenda Item 16

Report by the Director-General Annual Report on the Implementation of the Action Plan On Geographical Representation

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Bangladesh takes note of the report and appreciates the efforts of the Secretariat in strengthening the Organization's capabilities across its vital mandates, including organisational effectiveness, operational readiness and the overall implementation of the Convention.

However, we continue to note under-representation of our region in the professional and higher categories of the Secretariat. This notwithstanding that some encouraging steps have been taken under the Action Plan on Geographical Representation. This, therefore, clearly indicates that more needs to be done. This is not merely a matter of numbers, rather, it is a question of fairness and inclusive representation across all geographic areas.

We, therefore, strongly urge the OPCW to accelerate and deepen the implementation of the Action Plan endorsed by the Conference at its 28th Session and operationalized through the deliverables approved by the Executive Council at its 105th Session. This includes strengthening employer-branding efforts, enhancing outreach to under-represented regions, increasing opportunities under the Junior Professional Officer and internship programmes and continuing the practice of vacancy-notice extensions where regional participation remains low.

We also encourage the Secretariat to work closely with National Authorities to promote awareness of OPCW career opportunities and to support applicants from developing countries.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh firmly believes that a more geographically balanced Secretariat will certainly strengthen OPCW's operational effectiveness in fulfilling the Convention's goals. We stand ready to cooperate constructively with the Secretariat and Member States to ensure that the principles of equitable representation and inclusivity are fully realized.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
