

BANGLADESH INTERVENTION ON AGENDA ITEM 18

ENSURING THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION

Mr. Chair,

We thank the Director-General for the Annual Report on the implementation of the Action Plan for Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We attach high priority to the goal of universality, which remains fundamental to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention and to strengthening global peace, security and stability.

As a developing and peace-loving country, Bangladesh views the Convention as a cornerstone of multilateral disarmament and an essential instrument for preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Our own experience demonstrates that even States with limited resources can fully commit to the Convention's obligations when supported by effective international cooperation, capacity-building and sustained political will.

We are encouraged by the Secretariat's continued outreach during the reporting period, including its high-level engagement with the remaining States not yet Party to the Convention. At the same time, we underscore that the absence of even a limited number of States from the Convention continues to create a significant gap in the global norm against chemical weapons. Bangladesh therefore reiterates its call to all remaining States to ratify or accede to the Convention at the soonest.

Bangladesh also acknowledges that universality efforts need to remain inclusive, respectful of national contexts and responsive to the specific developmental needs of States. Enhanced technical assistance, tailored capacity-building and sustained diplomatic dialogue remain essential for bringing the last remaining States into the Convention. In this regard, we appreciate the Secretariat's bilateral approach and encourage further close coordination with regional and sub-regional organizations.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, as a country that deeply values multilateralism, Bangladesh reaffirms its commitment to supporting the OPCW's efforts politically, technically and through regional cooperation to ensure that the Convention becomes truly universal. Only through universal adherence, we can guarantee that chemical weapons are eliminated once and for all.

Thank you.
