

## **BANGLADESH INTERVENTION ON AGENDA ITEM 20**

### **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CHEMICAL INDUSTRY**

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Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Bangladesh takes note of the Director-General's Note on engagement with chemical industry associations and appreciates the Secretariat's efforts to deepen cooperation with this indispensable partner in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Bangladesh recognizes the industry's central role in supporting Article VI implementation, preventing diversion of dual-use materials, promoting responsible practices and keeping pace with rapid changes in global chemical production. We also note the ongoing cooperation through mechanisms such as the OPCW-ICCA Joint Steering Committee, the Chemical Industry Coordination Group and annual industry-National Authority forums addressing transfer discrepancies, verification challenges, emerging technologies and Responsible Care initiatives.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh places high importance on capacity-building that strengthens developing countries' ability to manage chemical safety and security. We welcome regional workshops, e-learning activities, Associate Programme and targeted seminars involving industry representatives. Initiatives such as Know Your Customer guidelines, digital compliance tools and chemical hazard training are vital for enabling all States Parties to meet their obligations and manage emerging risks.

In this context, Bangladesh highlights **three** priorities:

**First**, developing and transitioning economies require full consideration and appreciation of their needs and constraints, including gaps in safety culture, regulatory capacity and technology access, with tailored support for regions like Asia, Africa and Small Island Developing States.

**Second**, collaboration with industry associations may be encouraged to promote responsible innovation, early threat detection and the safe integration into new technologies, as advances in science and technology, including AI and automation, make industry engagement increasingly pivotal.

**Third**, greater industry engagements in policy-making processes may be encouraged to ensure transparency, inclusivity and better implementation of regulations and industrial operations.

Thank you.

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