

Bangladesh Intervention on Agenda Item 21

Emerging Technologies

Mr. Chair,

The delegation of Bangladesh takes note with appreciation of the Notes by the Technical Secretariat on both the Workshop and the Global Conference on Artificial Intelligence.

Bangladesh recognizes that AI is rapidly transforming scientific research and industrial practice, with significant implications for the implementation of the Convention. AI can accelerate chemical analysis, strengthen verification and forensics, support incident response and enhance training and capacity-building. Used responsibly, these tools can make the OPCW more agile and effective in preventing the re-emergence of chemical weapons.

At the same time, we remain mindful of the serious risks posed by the misuse of AI, from the potential design of novel toxic chemicals to cyber vulnerabilities, dual-use exploitation and greater access for non-State actors. These challenges demand responsible governance, guided by ethics, transparency, accountability and international cooperation. Responsible governance here merits reiteration.

In this regard, Bangladesh takes note of the establishment of the SAB Temporary Working Group on AI, the OPCW AI Research Challenge and the Secretariat's efforts to integrate AI into verification, national implementation support and assistance and protection programmes. We also value the development of AI-related training modules and the plan for regular capacity-building activities.

Mr. Chair,

For Bangladesh and many developing States Parties, equitable access to AI-related tools, knowledge and training is essential. Without targeted support, the technological divide may deepen disparities in chemical safety, security and verification readiness. We, therefore, urge the Secretariat to tailor AI-focused capacity-building, including virtual simulations, training tools and guidance modules, to the needs of developing and transitioning economies. We appreciate ongoing efforts in Africa and encourage similar region-specific support for Asia and other underrepresented regions.

We also underscore the need for inclusive global governance of AI so that all States Parties can meaningfully contribute to shaping future policies under the Convention.

To conclude, Mr. Chair, Bangladesh stands ready to work constructively with all delegations to ensure that AI is harnessed responsibly, ethically and equitably strengthening verification, advancing the peaceful uses of chemistry and reinforcing our shared commitment to prevent the re-emergence of chemical weapons. Indeed, with inclusive capacity-building and proactive governance, the OPCW can remain fit for purpose in an era of rapid technological evolution.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.
