

Agenda Item 13 – Biennial Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2026 and 2027

The Indian delegation welcomes the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2026–2027 and commends the efforts of the Technical Secretariat to keep the proposed biennial budget within the Zero Nominal Growth (ZNG) parameters.

We would, however, like to underscore the importance of maintaining 241 inspections under Article VI, as was the established practice prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. While only 210 inspections are envisaged for 2026, we urge the Technical Secretariat to ensure the conduct of 241 inspections in 2027, as reflected in the Programme and Budget.

It is important to highlight that the Technical Secretariat had been conducting 241 inspections annually until only a few years ago and therefore this figure should not be seen as an increase, but rather as a restoration to the previous level. Preserving the practice of 241 Article VI inspections each year would also uphold the decision of CSP-28 (2023), which relates directly to the core mandate of the OPCW.

During the budget consultations, we had suggested that the LMR (late contributions, miscellaneous income, and released commitments) of 2024 could be utilized to support the conduct of 241 inspections in 2027, should any funding constraints arise due to the mid-biennium review.

India also urges the Technical Secretariat to identify greater efficiencies and cost savings in administrative expenditure without compromising OPCW's core activities.

We hope that the Technical Secretariat will take positive steps toward achieving these goals.
