

Agenda Item 21: Emerging Technologies

The Indian delegation supports continued international cooperation in the peaceful uses of science and technology, guided by Articles VI and XI of the Convention. We appreciate the efforts of the Technical Secretariat in advancing work on Artificial Intelligence and take note of the cooperation of States Parties in convening recent conferences and workshops on this important subject.

India is actively contributing to global discussions on emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence (AI). We co-chaired the AI Action Summit in Paris in February this year. India would be hosting the AI Impact Summit in 2026, with active participation of several State Parties.

India consistently underscores the need to democratise technology, bridge the AI divide, and ensure inclusive access, particularly for the developing world.

In the context of the Chemical Weapons Convention, emerging technologies when responsibly leveraged offer significant opportunities to enhance safety and security in chemical facilities, including through improved threat detection, inventory control, and supply-chain monitoring.

Responsible use of such tools can support public health, environmental protection, sustainability, and broader socio-economic development. Inclusive frameworks, open systems, and capacity-building will be key to ensuring that technological progress strengthens and not undermines the objectives of the Convention.

At the same time, we must remain alert to risks, including the potential misuse of new technologies for chemical weapons production or delivery, including by non-state actors. We must adopt a holistic approach and thoroughly assess how new technologies support and impact the objectives and purposes of the Convention, considering both their benefits and challenges. We appreciate South Africa's efforts, as Chair of the OEWG on Terrorism, in initiating discussions on technological enablers of chemical terrorism, including drones.

Ongoing dialogue and proactive measures will be crucial in ensuring that technological advancements are utilized in ways that enhance security without undermining global stability.

India looks forward to further focused discussions in the OPCW on this important topic
