



INDIA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KUMAR TUHIN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA TO
THE OPCW
AT THE 30th SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
(24 – 28 November 2025)**

Chairperson,
Director-General,
Excellencies,
& Distinguished delegates,

The Indian delegation welcomes H.E Agustín Vásquez Gómez, Ambassador of El Salvador as the Chairperson of the 30th Session of the Conference of States Parties (CSP).

We assure you of our full cooperation and support and, look forward to having a very fruitful and productive session under your able leadership. We thank the outgoing Chair, H.E. Almir Šahović, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina for successful steering of the 29th CSP and the work accomplished during his Chairship.

2. We would like to convey our sincere appreciation to Director-General Fernando Arias for his professionalism and for successfully steering the Technical Secretariat. We also congratulate the incoming Director General Sabrina Dallafior Matter and convey our wishes for her successful tenure, and our readiness to work with her for success of our organizations work. My delegation also conveys sincere appreciation to Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany in successfully steering the Executive Council (EC).

Mr. Chair,

3. While recognizing the destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles as a significant accomplishment for the OPCW, it is

essential that we remain alert and work together to prevent any resurgence of such weapons. Advancing universal adherence to the Convention must therefore remain one of the OPCW's highest priorities.

4. India underscores the importance of the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. As an original signatory, we support all efforts to achieve the Convention's universality and urge the States that are not Parties, to join the Convention at the earliest. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the Technical Secretariat and facilitator Guatemala for promoting the universality of the Convention.

5. India believes that robust and comprehensive national implementation of the Convention, in accordance with Article VII, is essential for addressing evolving challenges, including the emergence of new toxic chemicals, advances in chemical weapons-related technologies, and the growing risks posed by non-State actors.

6. India believes that Article VI inspections must be implemented in a way that ensures implementation of the Convention and at the same time does not impede the economic and technological advancement of States Parties. India has been engaging pro-actively towards achieving this goal, including in the ongoing discussions between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat through the Industry Cluster. We welcome the EC-110 decision to increase the number of Article VI inspections to 210 for 2026 and to 241 for 2027. It is important to work towards fully implementing the decision of CSP-28 to restore the pre-pandemic level of 241 inspections.

Further, the methodology under discussion regarding Schedule 2 plant site risk assessment and reinspection frequencies may only be reviewed in line with the Convention and with the consensus of States Parties. Any change in the Risk Assessment Methodology for Article VI inspections must be aligned with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

7. India maintains its unequivocal opposition to the use or threat of use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. We continue to emphasize the importance of impartial, objective, and fact-based investigations by the OPCW into any alleged use of such weapons. At the same time, these processes must be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

and with full respect for the delicate balance of authority and responsibilities embedded within it.

Mr. Chair,

8. We commend the efforts of the DG and the Technical Secretariat as well as Syrian transitional authorities to resolve all outstanding issues. We especially note positively the efforts of the delegation of Qatar to progressing the work on this important matter and support the Syrian Arab Republic in OPCW. We hope that OPCW will undertake constructive efforts pursuant to the decision taken at the 110th EC session towards a clear, focused and timebound approach for Syria, keeping in view that measures being considered in view of the extraordinary circumstances do not create new precedence in terms of policy making processes and structures for the organization. We welcome the recent rounds of consultations between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic with the full participation of the Declaration Assessment Team and hope that both sides will continue to maintain a constructive approach in their efforts.

9. India believes that international cooperation activities under the OPCW can play a crucial role in enhancing the capabilities of States Parties to fully implement the Convention. India stands ready to support all efforts to promote the peaceful uses of chemical technology and enhance international cooperation in this field. For the past 7 years, India has been successfully hosting OPCW's Analytical Skills Development Course (ASDC) which has benefitted 164 participants so far from over 50 States Parties. We will continue to take forward this initiative.

Mr. Chair,

10. My delegation is pleased to inform this Conference that India has continued to support the OPCW's efforts to bring regional States Parties together by facilitating regional engagement on CWC-related matters. In collaboration with the OPCW, India hosted the 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia in New Delhi in July 2025, which saw the participation of 38 representatives from 24 States Parties. India successfully completed the OPCW's Mentorship/Partnership Programme (MPP) with the National Authority of Kenya. India has submitted its Expression of Interest to the TS for undertaking similar programmes.

11. The ChemTech Centre is emerging as an important capacity building centre for the effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. It also provides an excellent opportunity for knowledge sharing and scientific & technological collaboration with a wide network of stakeholders, including research institutions, academia, government authorities and chemical industry. India would be happy to explore opportunities for constructive collaboration towards this effort and contribute to the ChemTech Centre's activities.

12. On the Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2026-27 as well as on strengthening governance within the organization, we would like to request the TS to continue focussing on essential tasks under the convention, most importantly verification and inspection as well as on ensuring improved geographical representation, gender equality and focus on ICA programme. At the same-time, this has to be done in the backdrop of effects of global inflation, on the need to ensure adequate funding for, as well as encouraging the TS to continue striving to enhance efficiencies in the administration and management of the organization.

Mr. Chair,

13. India appreciates the efforts of the TS towards leveraging AI in advancing the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Our delegation believes that there is a need for a holistic approach and thorough assessment of how the use of AI aligns with and impact the objectives and purposes of the Convention, considering both their benefits and challenges. India is ready to actively participate in the discussions on this matter. In this regard, we are pleased to inform that India will be hosting AI Impact Summit in February 2026 on the three guiding pillars of People, Planet and Progress and on the theme of Welfare for all, Happiness for all.

14. Before I conclude, let me reiterate the importance of consensus building in the functioning of the OPCW and the need for all States Parties to work together for a world free of chemical weapons. We urge States Parties to work together in a spirit of consultation and cooperation, which is the cornerstone of multilateralism, to ensure that we uphold the provisions of the Convention. My delegation would also emphasize the importance of due consultations and ensuring that views of all member States are taken on board on all issues impacting the present and future work of the OPCW. In this regard, India actively

participated in the Open Ended Working Group on the rules governing the elections of Executive Council members and hopes that States Parties can reach a consensus on the matter.

Mr. Chair,

15. I request that our full statement be considered an official document of this session and posted on the Catalyst and the public website. Thank you.
