

**Intervention by Mr. Md Hasan Abdullah Towhid, Charge d’Affaires of Bangladesh  
Permanent Mission to the OPCW, at the 111<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting of the OPCW  
10-13 March 2026, The Hague, Netherlands**

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**Agenda Item 7: Countering chemical terrorism**

**Thank you, Mr. Chair.**

Bangladesh thanks the Director-General for presenting the report on the status of the OPCW’s contribution to global anti-terrorism efforts, and also to the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T), Ambassador of South Africa, for his briefing. Furthermore, we commend the Technical Secretariat for its continued work in supporting States Parties in addressing the threat posed by the possible use of chemical weapons by non-State actors.

Bangladesh recognizes that the full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention constitutes a critical pillar of international efforts to prevent chemical terrorism. The activities undertaken by the Secretariat, including capacity-building initiatives, assistance in strengthening national implementation frameworks, and cooperation with relevant international organizations, are valuable contributions toward enhancing global preparedness against chemical threats.

We appreciate the Secretariat’s efforts in promoting awareness, supporting legislative assistance, and strengthening the capacities of States Parties to prevent the acquisition and misuse of toxic chemicals by non-State actors. Such initiatives are particularly important in an evolving security environment where the misuse of chemical agents by terrorist groups remains a serious concern.

**Mr. Chair,**

While the progress reflected in the report is encouraging, Bangladesh believes that further efforts are necessary to ensure that all States Parties are adequately equipped to address this challenge, particularly developing countries.

**First**, capacity-building efforts should continue to focus on strengthening national implementation mechanisms. Many developing countries face limitations in technical

expertise, infrastructure, and resources required for effective monitoring, control, and response mechanisms related to chemical security.

**Second,** Bangladesh encourages the Secretariat to expand targeted training programmes for law-enforcement authorities, customs officials, first responders, and national authorities. Strengthening inter-agency coordination at the national level is essential for preventing illicit trafficking and misuse of toxic chemicals by non-State actors.

**Third,** greater emphasis should be placed on enhancing regional cooperation and information-sharing. Regional and sub-regional workshops and simulation exercises could significantly improve preparedness and enable neighbouring States Parties to coordinate their responses more effectively in the event of chemical incidents.

**Fourth,** Bangladesh underscores the importance of strengthening international cooperation and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries. Facilitating access to expertise, best practices, and modern detection and response technologies would greatly assist States Parties in bridging existing capacity gaps.

**Finally,** Bangladesh encourages continued cooperation between the OPCW and other relevant international organizations engaged in counter-terrorism and non-proliferation efforts. Such partnerships can enhance the effectiveness and coherence of global initiatives aimed at preventing chemical terrorism.

**Mr. Chair,**

Bangladesh remains firmly committed to the objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention and to supporting the work of the OPCW in addressing emerging threats. By strengthening cooperation, promoting inclusive capacity-building, and ensuring balanced implementation of the Convention, we can collectively reinforce our global resilience against the misuse of chemicals.

Bangladesh stands ready to work with all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat in advancing these shared goals.

**Thank you, Mr. Chair.**