

Intervention by Mr. Md Hasan Abdullah Towhid, Charge d’Affaires of Bangladesh Permanent Mission to the OPCW, at the 111th Executive Council Meeting of the OPCW10-13 March 2026, The Hague, Netherlands

Agenda Item 8: Emerging technologies

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The delegation of Bangladesh thanks the Technical Secretariat for its continued work in examining the implications of emerging technologies for the implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. We also express our appreciation to the Scientific Advisory Board and, in particular, to its Temporary Working Groups for their dedicated and forward-looking work in assessing technological developments relevant to the Convention.

Rapid advances in areas such as artificial intelligence, data science, and advanced chemical synthesis are transforming the scientific and industrial landscape. These developments present important opportunities to strengthen the work of the OPCW. Emerging technologies can enhance chemical analysis, improve verification methodologies, support incident response, and expand the scope of training and capacity-building.

At the same time, these developments also present new challenges. The potential misuse of emerging technologies, including the application of artificial intelligence to chemical research, could lower technical barriers and create new pathways for the design or misuse of toxic chemicals. In this context, continuous monitoring of scientific developments and informed policy responses will remain essential to ensure that the Convention keeps pace with technological change.

Bangladesh therefore appreciates the analytical work undertaken by the Scientific Advisory Board and its Temporary Working Groups. Their work provides valuable insights to help States Parties better understand both the opportunities and the risks associated with technological progress.

Mr. Chair, as discussions on emerging technologies continue, Bangladesh wishes to highlight several considerations.

First, it is essential that the benefits of technological advancement are shared equitably among all States Parties. Many developing countries face limitations in accessing advanced technologies, research networks and specialized expertise. Targeted capacity-building initiatives and technical cooperation programmes will therefore be important to ensure that these States are able to effectively implement their obligations under the Convention.

Second, Bangladesh encourages the Secretariat to expand training and awareness programmes related to emerging technologies. Regional workshops, practical training modules and simulation exercises could assist national authorities, laboratories and first responders in better understanding the implications of these technologies for chemical safety and security.

Third, the responsible and ethical use of emerging technologies must remain a guiding principle. International cooperation, transparency and the exchange of best practices will be essential to ensure that scientific progress continues to serve peaceful purposes and remains fully consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

Fourth, Bangladesh underscores the importance of inclusive dialogue involving States Parties, scientists, industry and academic institutions. Ensuring the meaningful participation of developing countries in these discussions will strengthen both the effectiveness and legitimacy of future policy approaches.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh remains firmly committed to supporting the work of the OPCW in keeping the Convention responsive to scientific and technological developments. Through responsible governance, strengthened international cooperation and inclusive capacity-building, the Organisation can continue to uphold the global norm against chemical weapons while promoting the peaceful and beneficial use of chemistry.

Bangladesh stands ready to work constructively with all delegations and the Technical Secretariat in advancing these shared objectives.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.