

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

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

At the outset, we welcome Ambassador Thomas Schieb as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. We also thank the Director-General for his comprehensive statement and commend the Technical Secretariat for their continued efforts.

The Chemical Weapons Convention remains a cornerstone of the global disarmament and non-proliferation architecture. Bangladesh National Authority continues to maintain robust oversight mechanisms to ensure the faithful and effective implementation of our obligations under the Convention.

We also attach high importance to reinforcing national technical and analytical capacities, including the development of laboratory infrastructure. In this regard, we seek support through OPCW’s Laboratory Twinning Programme to enhance the INARS Laboratory of the BCSIR. We believe this will significantly improve our ability to detect and analyze hazardous chemicals and ensure more effective implementation of the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

Bangladesh strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals under any circumstances, by any actor. Such acts violate the Convention and core principles of international law. The Convention’s credibility depends on the full and unwavering commitment of all States Parties, and we urge all actors to uphold it without exception.

We also express deep concern over the recent escalation of conflicts in the Middle East. This increasingly volatile environment significantly heightens the risk of chemical weapons proliferation and potential use, posing a serious threat to regional peace and stability. We stress the urgent need for all parties to adhere strictly to international law and fully respect established norms, including those enshrined in the Convention.

Mr. Chair,

At this point, we wish to outline **five key priorities** for advancing the work of the OPCW:

First, all States need to accede to the Convention without delay, supported by sustained diplomatic engagement, capacity-building and regional collaboration.

Second, gender balance and equitable geographical representation must be ensured within the Technical Secretariat to reflect the Organization's genuinely international character.

Third, international cooperation and assistance under Article XI need to be strengthened through expanded training, scholarship opportunities, and capacity-building initiatives, particularly for developing countries.

Fourth, priority needs to be given to technology transfer and access to modern analytical equipment, particularly for States Parties with limited resources.

And finally, partnerships need to be enhanced with regional and international organizations, industry, academia and civil society to advance peaceful use of chemical materials and reinforce safeguards against misuse.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to express our sincere appreciation for the confidence placed in Bangladesh to assume the role of Coordinator of the Asia Group. We look forward to working closely with all members to promote constructive, inclusive, and forward-looking engagement. I would also like to convey our deep appreciation to the Philippines for its dedicated leadership of the Asia Group over the past six and a half years, and for its valuable contributions in upholding the cohesion and effectiveness of the Group, with patience, commitment, and steady leadership.

Mr. Chair,

We share a vision of a world free from chemical weapons. We envision a world where peace and security are safeguarded for everyone. We firmly believe that this vision can be realized through unity, dialogue, constructive engagement and steadfast cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. Chair.
