



**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF INDIA AT THE 111th SESSION  
OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
10-13 March 2026**

***Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin, Permanent Representative of the Republic of India to the OPCW at the 111th Session of the Executive Council under Agenda Item 5: General Debate***

**Chairperson,**

**Director-General &**

**Distinguished delegates,**

The Indian delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to His Excellency Thomas Schieb, Ambassador of Germany, for his Chairship of the Executive Council (**EC**). We look forward to having a very productive EC session under his able chairship.

We would also like to thank and compliment Director General Ambassador Fernando Arias, DDG Ambassador Odette Melono and the entire TS for their dedication and work. We thank the Director General for his comprehensive report.

Mr Chair,

India attaches great importance to the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation and universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention. In a global scenario of increased threats to peace and security, universal adherence to the Convention must remain an utmost priority.

Mr Chair,

India believes that Article VI inspections should continue to be implemented, which strengthens the inspection and verification regime of the CWC. We are also cognizant of the need to adapt the verification and inspection regime to the growing chemical industry and rapid advancements in science and technology. To arrive at a consensus, India has been proactively engaging in the ongoing discussions between States Parties and the Technical Secretariat through the Industry Cluster.

In this regard, we reiterate that methodology under discussion regarding Schedule 2 plant site risk assessment and re-inspection frequencies, along with the distribution of total inspections among different categories, may only be reviewed in line with the Convention and with the consensus of the States Parties, while ensuring that the existing inspection and verification regime is in no way diluted.

We are pleased to note that Article VI inspections for 2026 are on track. We hope that the TS is able to complete its planned inspections so that we can return to the pre-pandemic number of 241 inspections annually in 2027, fully implementing the decision of CSP-28.

Mr Chair,

India reiterates the need for an impartial and objective investigation into any use of chemical weapons by the OPCW to establish the facts and reach evidence-based conclusions. However, this should be done strictly as per the provisions of the Convention, while respecting the delicate balance of power and responsibilities enshrined under it.

On the Syria file, we commend the efforts of the DG and the TS as well as Syrian authorities to resolve all outstanding issues. We welcome the ongoing cooperation with the Syrian authorities. In this regard, we urge for greater coordination, consultation and cooperation between all the stakeholders to ensure steady, stable and concrete progress towards closure of the Syria dossier.

Mr. Chair,

India attaches great importance to international cooperation activities under the OPCW that can strengthen 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 share with interested States Parties its experience and best practices in national implementation through the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme.

Following the successful conclusion of the India-Kenya Mentorship/Partnership Programme in October 2024, India has submitted its Expression of Interest for the period 2025–2027 and stands prepared to engage once again with concerned States Parties under this framework.

As in the past seven years, India will continue to host the OPCW's Analytical Skills Development Course (ASDC) in September this year.

India also commends the efforts of the TS towards leveraging AI in advancing the implementation of the CWC and welcomes the conclusion of the work of the Temporary Working Group on AI. We look forward to discussing the recommendations of the Group.

India recognises the importance of building consensus for international governance frameworks for AI. We are pleased to inform that India hosted the AI Impact Summit 2026 last month. The Summit adopted the New Delhi Declaration, anchored in the aspiration of "Welfare for All, Happiness for All". The Declaration highlights that AI's promise is best realized only when its benefits are shared by humanity. We hope that OPCW's work will also benefit from the discussions and outcomes of this Summit.

Mr. Chair,

We appreciate the efforts of the TS to strive to enhance efficiencies in the administration and management of the organisation. Our delegation attaches importance to leveraging the full potential of the Chemtech Centre and maximising its use. We also note with appreciation the progress made by the TS in implementing the recommendations of the External Auditor.

Amid the ongoing geopolitical situation, the mission of the OPCW in support of disarmament and a rules-based international order has grown increasingly complex and demanding. It is essential to strengthen consensus-based decision-making through consultations, particularly on all issues impacting the present and future work of the OPCW.

Thank you.

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