

Speech of H.E. Mr. Mizanur Rahman, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to OPCW and Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Netherlands on 14th session of CSP

Mr. Chairman, Director General OPCW, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen good afternoon. It's a great pleasure and honour for me to be able to address this gathering where all the peace-loving nations of the world express their commitment and conviction for a world free of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, i.e., the Chemical Weapons. I would like to begin by congratulating you Mr. Chairman on your appointment as the Chairman of the 14th CSP. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Director General Rogelio Ffirtter for his immense contribution to OPCW. I would also like to state my delegation's support for the recommendation of the Executive Council for H.E. Mr. Ahmet Uzumcu of Turkey to be appointed as the next Director General of OPCW. I believe the convention will continue to make further progress under his leadership.

2. Mr. Chairman, on behalf of the Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh, let me express our whole-hearted appreciation and thanks to the OPCW Secretariat for hosting the 14th conference of the state parties and thereby creating an enormous opportunity for this international forum to interact and exchange views and experiences on the implementation of the convention.

3. Bangladesh is a peace-loving nation and it is manifested in our constitutional commitment to the general and complete disarmament. Since its emergence as an independent nation in 1971, Bangladesh has always been a pioneer in the South Asian Region for the cause of global peace and disarmament. As a member of the Conference on Disarmament and a party to the Geneva Convention - 1925, Bangladesh became one of the early signatories and ratifying states of the CWC. Besides this pioneering effort, Bangladesh was also the first signatory to the Anti-Personnel Mine (APM) Ban Treaty and the first ratifying state to the Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in South Asia.

4. Mr. Chairman, at this point of my address, I would like to explain the stand of the Government of The Peoples Republic of Bangladesh about the CWC and its implementation. We

take pride in the fact that Bangladesh was never associated in the production, procurement, or use of Chemical or Biological Weapons and always condemned the use of such weapons of mass destruction against mankind. We fully support the OPCW's efforts in making the Convention comprehensive, non-discriminatory, verifiable and ultimately a universal instrument for the elimination of Chemical Weapons from the world. Therefore, we urge upon all the states, which are yet to sign or ratify the CWC to come forward and embrace the noble objectives of the Convention.

5. Mr. Chairman, I feel it relevant to say a few words about Bangladesh National Authority for CWC and the state of implementation of CWC in Bangladesh. We are fully aware of the obligations under the Convention and would like to mention here a few points:

- a. Bangladesh signed the Chemical Weapons Convention on 14 January 1993 and ratified the same on 25 April 1997. Armed Forces Division is entrusted with the responsibilities of BNACWC.
- b. There are total 18 members (including the Chairman and Member secretary from Armed Forces Division) in the BNACWC. Rest 16 members are selected from different ministries/ organisations.
- c. We have already submitted necessary declaration regarding the Chemical Weapons and their production facilities. Initially we declared 6 fertilizers companies of Bangladesh. We are in a process to move our focus on pharmaceutical and insecticide factories.
- d. As a State Party to the Convention Bangladesh has already enacted the Gazette on National Law for CWC. Enacting the Legislature was the first challenge of the entire project. Right now we are working on some of the important regulations related to the convention which are in the final stage of approval by the Government.
- e. BNACWC has conducted total seven workshops on CWC in Bangladesh. These were held at national level in the year 1999, 2005, 2007(April) and 2008 (April, July and Nov) where total 185 participants from home and abroad took part.

- f. On 29th April 2007, Bangladesh commemorated the Tenth anniversary of the Entry into Force of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the founding of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). National Authority celebrated the 10th Anniversary of OPCW. We have arranged TV Talk show and published News paper supplements.
- g. For the first time Bangladesh hosted the Sixth Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia from 4 to 6 November 2008. Bangladesh became the first country in South Asia to host such a gathering. Total 43 participants from 22 States Parties attended the meeting.
- h. Till now, Bangladesh received 02 sequential inspections from OPCW in April 2008 and February 2009 respectively.

6. It is worthy to mention here that Bangladesh is meeting all national obligations as a state party to the convention as well as creating general awareness and alertness on the CWC among the general citizens and stakeholders. In addition to these, Bangladesh expects the following support from OPCW for effective implementation of the CWC.

- a. Basic and Advanced training courses on assistance and protection of CW.
- b. Training course for the security forces on the application of riot control agents in accordance with the purposes not prohibited under the CWC
- c. Provide detection and decontamination equipments
- d. More coordination is required for joint NBCD exercises at the national and regional level.
- e. Expert and technical support regarding CWC

7. Mr. Chairman, we reassert our full commitment to the Convention and pledge adherence to its noble objectives. We would also like to reiterate our full support to the OPCW's efforts in achieving universal adherence to the Convention and render all possible help and assistance to the OPCW in its vision of the development of chemistry for peaceful purposes.

9. I thank you all ladies and gentlemen.