



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twentieth Session
30 November – 4 December 2015

C-20/NAT.5
30 November 2015
ENGLISH only

NEPAL

**STATEMENT BY GHANSHYAM BHANDARI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATION OF NEPAL TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairman,
Mr Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I wish to congratulate you, Mr Chairman, on your election to preside over the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your important responsibilities.

I take this opportunity to appreciate the able and dynamic leadership of Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać, as the Chairperson of the Nineteenth Session.

My delegation thanks the Director-General Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his comprehensive statement covering the Organisation's recent achievements, persistent challenges and future priorities. We acknowledge the commitment and dedication with which the Director-General has been serving the Organisation. We believe that his leadership has played an important role in the smooth sailing of the OPCW activities.

Thanks are also due to the staff of the Technical Secretariat for making the excellent arrangements for the Conference.

I would like to align my statement with the statement delivered by His Excellency Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

The principles of peace and non-violence, timeless and fundamental as they are, continue to guide Nepal's disarmament policy. We have always maintained that the world deserves to remain peaceful without any threat of weapons of mass destruction. Nepal remains committed to its long-held position of working towards achieving general and complete disarmament of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction around the globe and denouncing the production, stockpiling and proliferation of such weapons.

We view the Chemical Weapons Convention as a unique and non-discriminatory international disarmament instrument. It is our firm belief that its effective implementation



will significantly contribute to achieving the general disarmament goals. We also believe that international peace and security depends on the faithful adherence to the international instruments such as this.

It goes without saying that we have come a long way since the entry into force of this convention. However, the project to free the world from the use of chemical weapons still remains unfinished. While we are yet to achieve the full destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles, we have a challenge to prevent the re-emergence of such weapons. And, given the acts of international terrorism in recent times, we must ensure that chemical weapons do not fall into the hands of terrorists and non-States actors.

In this regard, we commend the efforts of the Organisation towards achieving universality of the Convention. It is highly encouraging that 192 States are already Parties to the Convention. This is an indication of the international community's desire for a chemical weapons-free peaceful world. We call on the remaining countries to join the Convention at the earliest.

Nepal is engaged in the faithful implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention at the national level. A National Authority has been established under the convenorship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the national implementation of the Convention.

Nepal does not produce, manufacture, possess, import or export chemical weapons or any other weapons of mass destruction. Our use of chemical materials is limited to medical and other peaceful purposes. However, we have always extended and will continue to extend our full cooperation and support in international efforts to eliminate the production, use, stockpiling and proliferation of chemical weapons.

We fully support the OPCW's activities carried under Article XI of the Convention. We are of the view more efforts need to be geared towards promoting the flow of chemical technology, trade of chemicals and exchange of expertise that contribute to the economic and technological development. This will also help make the Convention more relevant to a large number of States Parties like Nepal that possess neither chemical weapons nor any substantial chemical industries.

We have been benefitting from the regional and global capacity building programmes of the OPCW. We thank the OPCW for providing training opportunities to our personnel regarding the safe use and proper management of chemicals. The exchange of scientific and technical information and strengthening of the analytical skills and technical capabilities of the least developed countries like Nepal is critical. We look forward to an enhanced level of engagement at the regional and international levels in this regard.

To conclude, I reiterate my delegation's commitment to be closely and constructively engaged with other States Parties and the OPCW in the deliberations of this Conference. I am confident that the Conference's outcomes will be meaningful in our pursuit of the Convention goals. I also request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Conference and posted to the public website and to the external server.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.