



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

Twentieth Session
30 November – 4 December 2015

C-20/NAT.30
1 December 2015
ENGLISH only

BANGLADESH

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SHEIKH MOHAMMED BELAL
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BANGLADESH TO THE OPCW
AT THE TWENTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Chairperson of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín,
Director-General of the OPCW, Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü,
Deputy Director-General of the OPCW,
Members of International Organisations, Specialised Agencies, and Scientific Community,
Members of Civil Society and NGOs,
Distinguished delegates,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me first to extend to Your Excellency Ambassador Eduardo Ibarrola-Nicolín our felicitations and warm welcome as the Chair of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. We are confident that under your able guidance, the conduct of business of this session will come to a successful conclusion. I would also like to congratulate the newly elected members of the Bureau and other officials. We pledge our fullest support and cooperation to you and the members of your Bureau in the discharge of your mandate.

We also like to register our deepest appreciation to the outgoing Chair of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, Ambassador Vesela Mrđen Korać of Croatia for all her dedicated efforts during the Nineteenth Session.

I also take the opportunity to register our deep appreciation to the Director-General H.E. Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü for his innovative and outstanding leadership to make this Organisation befitting for tomorrow and beyond. Without a team of dedicated and talented members in the Technical Secretariat, Director-General's work would have been far more challenging than what it is now.

My delegation endorses and fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Dr Alireza Jahangiri, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the OPCW on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Bangladesh, as an original signatory to the Convention, is firmly committed to the aspirations of the OPCW in ridding the world from chemical weapons. Bangladesh believes that the success of OPCW is an absolute necessity for humanity. As a world's leading contributor to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations across the world, Bangladesh deeply values her sacrifice and contribution to the world peace.



We, therefore, remain committed to the journey of keeping OPCW relevant, functional and universally appealing to all and every human being of this world. It is with this spirit and inner urge for world peace, Bangladesh remains eager to rejoin the Executive Council. As Buddha famously said "peace comes from within", we assure you of our contribution to this journey of peace.

The OPCW has achieved tremendous success since coming into force of this Convention in 1997 by dint of excellent leadership vis-à-vis the unwavering support of the States Parties. Nonetheless, likewise any organisation, this Organisation also needs to be far more innovative and guarded in sustaining its neutrality and global appeal irrespective of any kind of geopolitical or ideological development. We, therefore, like to propose for greater attention in placing in-built re-evaluation of whatever OPCW initiates or undertakes in the future. An earnest drive for geographical and gender representation should be there under any circumstances.

We also like to see an immediate articulation of a universal ethical code of conduct for chemists. Bangladesh, in her humble way, will host the 16th Asian Chemical Congress in March next year in Dhaka, where this issue would be discussed in its fullest possible details. We deeply appreciate OPCW for facilitating the regional Congress and look forward to His Excellency Ambassador Ahmet Üzümcü's joining the Congress.

Bangladesh continues to fulfil its obligations under Article VII of the Convention relating to National Implementation Measures. We deeply appreciate the active encouragement and support of the Technical Secretariat in this regard. Bangladesh wishes to engage more with the OPCW to further enhance our capacity in this regard.

We look forward towards achieving our common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

I would like to request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twentieth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and be published on the OPCW website and extranet.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.

- - - 0 - - -