



**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF INDIA
AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE OPCW EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
07-10 October 2025**

*Statement by H.E. Ambassador Kumar Tuhin, Permanent Representative of the
Republic of India to the OPCW at the 110th Session of the Executive Council under
Agenda Item 5: General Debate*

**Chairperson,
Director-General &
Distinguished delegates,**

The Indian delegation conveys its sincere appreciation to His Excellency Thomas Schieb, Ambassador of Germany for his chairship of the Executive Council. We look forward to having a very productive 110th session of EC under his able chairship.

We would also like to commend the Technical Secretariat led by Director-General, Fernando Arias for its continued efforts and commitment, and thank Director General for his report.

Mr Chair,

India attaches great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of and universal adherence to the Chemical Weapons Convention. While the destruction of all declared chemical weapon stockpiles was an important achievement for OPCW, we must remain vigilant and collectively strive to prevent their re-emergence. Universal adherence to the Convention should, therefore, remain an utmost priority for the OPCW. As an original signatory, we support all efforts to achieve its universality and urge the States that are not Parties, to join the Convention at the earliest. In this regard, we welcome the efforts of the TS and facilitator Guatemala for promoting the universality of the Convention.

Mr Chair,

India believes that Article VI inspections should continue to be implemented in a manner which strengthens the inspection and verification regime in line with the objects and purposes of the CWC. However, we understand the need to adapt the verification and inspection regime, in light of the growing chemical industry and rapid advancements in science and technology. India has been engaging proactively towards achieving this goal, including 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 may only be reviewed in line with the Convention and with the consensus of States Parties. Any change in the Risk Assessment Methodology for Article VI inspections must be aligned with the provisions of Article XI of the Convention.

Recalling the decision of CSP-28 in 2023 which affirmed that the Article VI inspections would return to the pre-pandemic number of 241 inspections annually in 2026 & 2027, we hope that this CSP decision which pertains to a core mandate of this organization and the convention, would be respected and supported. India strongly believes that Article VI inspections must continue to uphold the object and purpose of the Convention. We will continue working closely with other delegations and the TS to avoid deferment of implementation of CSP decisions year after year. In this regard, any changes in risk assessment methodology must be considered on consensus, keeping in view that the existing inspection and verification regime is in no way diluted.

Mr Chair,

India remains firmly opposed to any use or threat of use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anybody and under any circumstances. We reiterate 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 issue, my delegation commends the efforts of the DG and the TS as well as Syrian authorities to resolve all outstanding issues. We especially note positively the efforts of the delegation of Qatar to progressing the work on this important matter and support the Syrian Arab Republic in OPCW. We support a positive, forward-looking approach towards moving on the Syria dossier. We hope that OPCW will undertake constructive efforts towards a clear, focused and time-bound approach for Syria, and any measures being considered in view of the extraordinary circumstances do not create new precedence in terms of policy making processes and structures for the organization.

Mr Chair,

In the face of evolving and often tense geopolitical realities, the mission of the OPCW has become more complex and demanding. As the custodian of the global efforts to eliminate chemical weapons, the OPCW must continue to uphold the commitment of State Parties to CWC, not only for international peace and security, but also for preserving the collective resolve of the global community to never again allow the horrors of chemical warfare.

To achieve the goals of our organization, building trust and closer cooperation with other States Parties is now more relevant than ever before. OPCW in its continued efforts to bring regional States Parties on one platform organises Regional Meetings on CWC related matters. India has supported these efforts

recently by collaborating with the OPCW for holding the 23rd Regional Meeting of National Authorities of States Parties in Asia in New Delhi, India in July 2025. The meeting was attended by 38 representatives from 24 States Parties to the Convention. In 2024, India was pleased to partner with Kenya National Authority under the OPCW Mentorship/Partnership Programme to strengthen its implementation capacity. India stands ready to work with other States Parties under MPP programme and extend any assistance required.

We are happy to note that while OPCW encourages the peaceful use of chemistry, it also lays emphasis on ensuring chemical Safety and Security. This is an important initiative that must continue to be emphasised and promoted. In this regard, I warmly recall the prestigious OPCW-The Hague Award awarded to the Indian Chemical Council in 2024, highlighting the ICC's crucial role in promoting chemical safety and security in India and its alignment with the OPCW's goals.

Distinguished delegates,

Before I conclude, let me reiterate the importance of consensus building in the functioning of the OPCW and the need for all States Parties to work together for a world free of chemical weapons and take all decisions in a spirit of cooperation. It is important that the organization is truly representative in both letter and spirit, of both the gender balance as well as the diverse geographies, that are present here. My delegation would also emphasize the importance of due consultations and ensuring that views of all member states are taken on board on all issues impacting the present and future work of the OPCW.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of this session and posted on the external server and the public website.

Thank you!