



**Statement by**  
**Ambassador J.S. Mukul,**  
Permanent Representative of India to the OPCW  
at the 82nd Session of the Executive Council,  
12-15 July 2016.

Madam Chairperson,  
Mr. Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates

I take this opportunity to welcome you as Chairperson of the Executive Council and wish you a successful tenure. We are confident that under your leadership, this session will have a successful conclusion.

I would like to thank the Director General for his statement and commend him and his team for the efforts they have made in the implementation of the Convention and for advancing the common goal of a world free of chemical weapons.

My delegation endorses and associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of NAM States Parties to the CWC and China.

Madam Chairperson,

India views the Chemical Weapons Convention as a unique, non-discriminatory disarmament instrument which serves as a model for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. In a short span, CWC has been remarkably successful in attaining near universality. We urge the remaining States that are not Parties to the Convention to consider acceding to the Convention at the earliest.

India attaches great importance to the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. All chemical weapons must be destroyed. Destruction of chemical weapons is the most important

undertaking made by every State Party to the Convention. We urge all possessor States to take necessary steps to expedite their destruction processes.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation welcomes the completion of destruction of Syrian chemical weapons and progress made so far in the matter of destruction of Syria's chemical weapons production facilities. We hope that the remaining task of destruction will be completed in the earliest possible time.

We have taken note of the recent report of the Director General titled 'Outcome of the consultations with the Syrian Arab Republic regarding its chemical weapons declaration' as well as the recent report of the Declaration Assessment Team. While we recognize and appreciate the progress achieved in clarifying the gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in DAT's finding as a result of DG's consultations with senior representatives of Syria, we would encourage further consultations with an aim to fully resolve all the outstanding in the spirit of trust and cooperation.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation is deeply concerned with reports of acquisitions of chemical weapons and their delivery system by ISIS/ISIL and continuous uses of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals in Syria and Iraq by terrorists. We believe that our work in the EC should help to eliminate the possibility of any future use of chemical weapon.

It has been our consistent position that the use of chemical weapons anywhere, at anytime by anybody under any circumstances cannot be justified and the perpetrators of such abhorrent acts must be held accountable.

My delegation had noted the work done so far by the OPCW-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) and we are awaiting its final report. My delegation expects that JIM will carry out its mandate in an objective, impartial and professional manner.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation welcomes the decision adopted by the EC-M-51 on destruction of the remaining Category 2 chemical weapons stockpiles in Libya so as to prevent the possibility of these CWs falling into the hands of terrorists. In this regard, we reiterate that urgent follow-up action should be taken by the OPCW to effectively respond to threats posed by terrorists in Libya.



Madam Chairperson,

One of the core commitments pledged by each Member State to the Convention is to promote the peaceful uses of chemistry as obligated under Article XI. Chemistry and chemical technologies hold the key to confront many of the present day challenges. It should, thus, be the aim of all stake-holders of the Convention to ensure the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment, scientific and technical information for the peaceful uses of chemistry.

Madam Chairperson,

While much success has been achieved in making the world freer of chemical weapons, there is no room for complacency. Emergence of non-state actors clouds the chemical disarmament landscape and poses a growing and real challenge since the potential of toxic chemicals falling in the hands of non-state actors, including terrorists, is no longer a hypothetical proposition. In such a scenario, it is our view, that effective national implementation provides a bulwark. We urge all Member States, which have not done so yet, to give priority to effective national implementation measures as contained in Article VII of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

While it is true that the Convention is neither a Counter-Terrorism Treaty nor a Chemical Safety Treaty, we are happy that the Technical Secretariat is functioning as a facilitator and enabler for chemical safety and security. The OPCW has emerged as a forum for consultation and cooperation between the States Parties which includes exchange of ideas and discussion of best practices in the area of chemical safety and security. In this regard, my delegation notes the efforts of the Chairpersons of the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and the Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors.

Madam Chairperson,

We are happy to note that the Technical Secretariat is taking active interest in implementation of Article X. It is also satisfying to note that many training courses have been conducted by TS for capacity development of State Parties and their enhanced interest in accessing assistance and protection data bank maintained by the TS. India welcomes the establishment of Rapid Response Assistance Team (RRAT) in view of recent use or threat to use chemical weapons by terrorists.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation welcomes the proposed Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation between the OPCW and the World Customs Organization. We believe that this initiative will be helpful in strengthening national and international responses to the illicit trade in chemicals relevant to the Convention and also in resolving the issue of transfer discrepancies among States Parties. In this context, it may be worth mentioning that the National Authority of India has signed a MoU with the Indian Custom Department for accessing on-line data of export and import of scheduled chemicals which would contribute in minimizing and resolving any transfer discrepancies.

Madam Chairperson,

With regard to the future priorities of the Organisation, we welcome the decision made by CSP-20 on the establishment of a Working Group to discuss and formulate a document on the future priorities of the OPCW. We believe that the focus of OPCW should remain the complete elimination of all categories of chemical weapons. We expect discussions in the Working Group to be State parties driven to address all issues related to the future of the Organisation in a comprehensive manner.

Thank you Madam Chairperson.

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