

**Statement by H E Tareque Muhammad**  
**Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the OPCW,**  
**at the 29th Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CSP)**

*Mr. Chairperson,*  
*Excellencies,*  
*Director-General,*

My delegation conveys felicitations to Ambassador *Almir Šahović* of Bosnia and Herzegovina on his election as the Chair of the 29th session of CSP. We are confident that Amb. *Šahović* will steer our proceedings to productive outcome. I would also place on record our appreciation to Ambassador Suljuk Mustansar Tarar of Pakistan for his guidance of the previous Session of CSP.

2 Bangladesh continues to trust the Director-General, Ambassador Fernando Arias and his leadership of the Technical Secretariat, in ensuring full and effective implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention. Appreciation is due to his team for conducting the organization's operations for the benefit of the States parties.

3 The Director General's Report to the CSP sheds light on the fast evolving areas under OPCW's jurisdiction having particular reference to AI and its peaceful and judicious use by State Parties. Bangladesh found the global conference on the role of AI in the implementation of the CWC, held last October in Rabat useful. We thank the Government of Morocco and the Technical Secretariat for organizing the conference.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

4. Bangladesh joined 14 other States Parties in last September in visiting Abandoned Chemical Weapons (ACW) sites in China by Japan. We thank the Governments of China and Japan, and the OPCW for organizing the visit. During the visit, we observed the excellent cooperation between China and Japan in the destruction of ACWs.

***Mr. Chairperson,***

5. At the Fifth RevCon last year, we saw considerable convergence on key issues. One of which was emphasizing a multicultural composition of the Technical Secretariat (TS), giving due importance to fair representation from all geographic regions. Such an approach to the OPCW's professional demography, respecting geographic diversity and

gender parity, are crucial elements to build trust and confidence amongst all. A diverse workforce indeed fosters inclusion, innovation, and leads to more effective decision-making as also maintain universal character that the Convention envisions.

6. At the moment we see that around 42% of total staff of OPCW is from one particular geographical group allows which is not aligned to the principle of fair representation of all geographical regions. We look forward to Director-General's leadership in maintaining the organization's multicultural character reflective of justified and fair representation from all geographical groups.

**Mr. Chair,**

7 As a fast-developing economy with ever growing industrial capacity, Bangladesh's increasing use of chemicals is unavoidable. Bangladesh, however, remains firmly committed to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and its objectives, thereby utilizing chemicals in a responsible manner. Bangladesh stands by its stated principle against proliferation of destructive weapons including chemical ones.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

8 Bangladesh wants to see the universal application of prohibition of Chemical Weapons wherever it is needed. We are therefore deeply concerned on Israel's ongoing aggression against the Palestinian people in Gaza and Lebanon. The reported use of internationally prohibited weapons there, like chemical agents and white phosphorus, is unacceptable. My delegation would like to see truth around alleged use of Chemical Weapons in Gaza and Lebanon by Israel unearthed. Our delegation further like to see principled and objective applications of the Chemical Weapons Convention, everywhere.

**Mr Chair,**

9 Bangladesh would stress on constructive engagement between Syria and the Technical Secretariat to address all outstanding issues without politicizing the discourse. We would like to see progress in the ongoing consultations. We hope, collaborative spirit would drive both sides in their future interactions in fulfilling the mandate and responsibility under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**Mr Chair,**

10 We commend the OPCW for achieving the complete destruction of all declared chemical weapons stockpiles in the USA, in summer last year. In a world fraught with multiple crises, this milestone underscores the need for all State Parties to strengthen and emulate this collective achievement. We urge the remaining States outside the Convention to join this shared effort for global peace.

11 My delegation appreciates the organisation of annual Article XI Workshop held a week ago which provided detailed insights into OPCW's initiatives across different thematic areas including Integrated Chemicals Management, Enhancement of Laboratory Capabilities, and Promotion of Chemical Knowledge.

12 The inauguration of the ChemTech Centre last year marks a significant milestone. We envision it as a hub for training, capacity building, and research; offering advanced expertise in analytical chemistry, chemical security, and emerging fields like AI and biotechnology. In this regard, my delegation would urge the OPCW-TS to play more active role with a focus on supporting developing countries in laboratory twining and upgradation programs. We would also urge to allocate fund from the ICA program for funded JPOs in the TS, specially from the under represented region and States Parties.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

13 Bangladesh believes the OPCW's strength lies in upholding the Convention's provisions through consensus and cooperation. We trust the OPCW to play a objective and proactive role in preventing chemical misuse while promoting their beneficial use for sustainable development.

14 I kindly request that this statement be issued as an official document of the 29th session of the Conference of the States Parties, and uploaded to the OPCW external server and published on the OPCW public website.

*Thank you for your attention.*

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