

(check against delivery)

**INDIA : Statement delivered by Indian Delegation at the 107th Session of the Executive Council of the OPCW**

India reiterates the importance of recruiting staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible, and improve geographical representation within the composition of the Technical Secretariat. Ensuring equitable geographical representation in TS is crucial to maintain a universal character that the Convention envisioned.

To maintain the non-career nature of the organisation, we reiterate that rehiring may be allowed only in exceptional circumstances. Our delegation supports the efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in the TS while ensuring the highest standards of efficiency, competence, and integrity.

We take note of the Report by the Director-General on Implementation of the tenure policy in 2023, EC-106/DG.8/Add.1 C-29/DG.4/Add.1 dated 3 October 2024, and we understand that as on 1 October 2024, the geographical distribution of 13 rehired inspectors among the different regional groups are : Africa–15.4% (two); Asia–15.4% (two); Eastern Europe–30.8% (four); Latin America and the Caribbean–15.4% (two); and Western Europe and Others–23% (three). India emphasises the need for equitable geographically representation.

Our delegation reiterates that the Director-General use the rehiring mechanism only as an exceptional and interim measure and to be carried out in a transparent and accountable fashion. We emphasise that the Director-General while exercising this exception, pay due consideration to geographical and gender balance in accordance with Article VIII of the Convention, when rehiring inspectors.

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

Thankyou