



**Statement by H.E. Tareque Muhammad
Ambassador & Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the OPCW
at the 108th Session of the Executive Council, 4-7 Mar 2025**

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

My delegation conveys felicitations to Ambassador **Andrés Parral of Ecuador** on his leadership as the Chair of the 108th Session of the Executive Council. We have full confidence in his ability to steer our deliberations towards a productive outcome.

We commend **Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias** for his steadfast leadership in ensuring the effective implementation of the **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**. Appreciation is due to his team for conducting the organization's operations for the benefit of the States parties, particularly as we transition into the post-destruction phase.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bangladesh aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Ambassador of Uganda on behalf of the States Parties of NAM and China.

Bangladesh remains steadfast in its commitment to the **CWC and its objectives**, ensuring the responsible use of chemicals while upholding our principled stance against the proliferation of chemical weapons. We recognize the importance of and pledge our support for **strengthening national and international mechanisms** to prevent misuse of chemicals while facilitating their peaceful applications.

The **complete destruction of declared chemical weapons stockpiles**, including those in the United States two year back, is a historic milestone. My delegation reiterates the need for **universal adherence to the Convention**, urging remaining non-member states to join this collective effort to eliminate the threat of chemical weapons globally.

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 for organizing the event. We commend government of Morocco for organizing the conference on application of AI in the field of chemical. My delegation also appreciates Germany for organizing

the upcoming visit in Munster, Germany. These events demonstrate on the part of the relevant States Parties commitment to attain collective objectives of the OPCW.

Mr. Chairperson,

Bangladesh remains deeply concerned about the reported use of **prohibited chemical agents in conflict zones**, including allegations in **Gaza and Lebanon**. We call for **impartial, transparent investigations** to ascertain the truth and uphold the principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

My delegation welcomes the fresh round of **engagement between the government of Syria and the OPCW and the Technical Secretariat** to resolve outstanding issues soonest possible.

The **threat of chemical terrorism and misuse of toxic chemicals by non-state actors** remains a pressing global challenge. We appreciate ongoing efforts under the **Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism (OEWG-T)** and thank Amb. Madonsela of South Africa in leading this crucial topic. We encourage further collaboration between the TS and States Parties to enhance **chemical security frameworks and information sharing mechanisms**.

Mr. Chairperson,

My delegation has been stressing on the importance of ensuring **geographical diversity and gender balance** within the Technical Secretariat. At present, **4 out of 10 OPCW Staffs (42%) come from one geographical region**, which does not align with the principles of fair representation. We urge continued efforts to **promote an inclusive, multicultural workforce**, and address gaps of skills, experiences and capacity where they are needed and thereby create the opportunity for all member states to contribute to the works of OPCW.

Somewhat related to this, on the issue of resource management of the TS, my delegation underscores the significance of a **balanced approach to resource allocation**, ensuring that countries have equitable access to **capacity-building, technical assistance, and technology transfers** under the Convention. We urge the **Technical Secretariat to expand initiatives under Article XI**, and undertake targeted programs particularly in areas such as **laboratory twinning**,

chemical safety training, and funded Junior Professional Officer (JPO) programs for underrepresented regions. In this regard, the **ChemTech Centre** represents a key platform for enhancing OPCW's technical capabilities.

Mr. Chairperson,

The future success of the Convention depends on **consensus-building, trust, and cooperation** among all States Parties. Bangladesh remains committed to working with all partners to uphold the CWC's objectives, ensuring that the OPCW remains a **pillar of chemical security and international peace**.

I kindly request that this statement be issued as an official document of the **108th session** of the **Executive Council** and made available on the OPCW's public website.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
