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Statement by H.E. Ms. Sewa Lamsal, Ambassador of Nepal to the BENELUX Countries, Head of Mission to the European Union and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the OPCW at the Thirty-First Conference of State Parties
23-27 November 2026

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Mr. President,
Madame Director-General
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election to preside over this session and assure you of my delegation's full support. I also thank the outgoing Chair for his commendable work.

My delegation warmly welcomes the new Director-General and Deputy Director-General at the helm of the OPCW Secretariat and wishes them every success. I thank the Director-General for her comprehensive report and congratulate the Executive Members of the Council for their respective elections.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered earlier on behalf of Asia Group, including Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China.

Mr. President,
Disarmament and non-proliferation have always been fundamental pillars of Nepal's foreign policy. Guided by the principles of world peace, peaceful coexistence and international cooperation, Nepal firmly believes that lasting global peace and security can only be achieved through a time-bound, general and complete disarmament of all weapons of mass destruction.

Nepal reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the objectives and principles of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and unequivocally condemns the development,

production, acquisition, stockpiling, proliferation and use of chemical weapons by any state or non-state actor, under any circumstances.

Universality and full implementation of the Convention are essential to achieving a world free of chemical weapons. Nepal calls upon all States that have not yet joined the Convention to accede without further delay.

We appreciate the continued efforts of the OPCW Technical Secretariat in fulfilling its mandates and urge the Organisation to maintain impartiality, professionalism, transparency, and accountability.

Mr. President,

Nepal underscores that disarmament and development are mutually reinforcing. As we continue to face severe challenges such as poverty, hunger, climate change, disasters, and pandemics, redirecting even a fraction of military spending would substantially help in achieving our common development goals, including the SDGs.

Nepal remains committed to implementing the Convention. A National Authority has been established under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for that purpose.

Nepal acknowledges the importance of strengthening institutional, technical and human capacities and emphasises the need for sustained OPCW assistance in training and capacity-building for the LDCs like Nepal.

We encourage the OPCW to continue supporting national legislative and regulatory frameworks, chemical safety and security, emergency preparedness and cooperation among National Authorities.

Mr. President,

Nepal attaches great importance to Article XI of the Convention and recognises the contribution of chemistry to healthcare services, research and development, agriculture advancement, and environmental protection, among many other fields.



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The implementation of the Convention should not hamper the economic and technological development of States Parties. Developing countries should have equitable access to the peaceful applications of chemistry through international cooperation, technology transfer, technical assistance and capacity-building.

Rapid advances in science and technology, including artificial intelligence and biotechnology, offer significant opportunities but they also pose threats and challenges to the Convention. Nepal supports continued dialogue, scientific cooperation and capacity-building to address emerging risks while promoting the peaceful use of these technologies.

Mr. President,

Nepal firmly believes that multilateralism, dialogue and international cooperation are essential to addressing global security challenges. The Convention is a landmark achievement of multilateral diplomacy and must be preserved and strengthened as an effective instrument of international law. Nepal is committed to engage constructively to the 6th Review Conference of the State Parties.

As the host country of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), Nepal remains committed to promoting regional cooperation, confidence-building and disarmament initiatives.

Finally, let me reiterate Nepal's steadfast commitment to the Convention and its vision of a world free of chemical weapons. We stand ready to work constructively with all States Parties and the OPCW Secretariat to promote its universality and ensure its full and effective implementation.

I thank you, Mr. President.