



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Sixth Session

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
IN SUPPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE
BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

Mr Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its position that the only legal and legitimate permanent representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW is that which is represented by its Permanent Representative H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah and the members of her delegation.

The permanent representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW has submitted her valid credentials to the Director-General on March 2011 and my delegation categorically rejects the continued attempts to question the legitimate participation of the delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the sessions and meetings of the OPCW. The credentials issued for the current delegation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela cannot be challenged on baseless and politically motivated grounds.

The international organisations are not in a position to judge the legitimacy of the governments of the Member States. This would be an unacceptable precedent in this Organisation that a few States Parties, on the basis of their own interests and views, attempt to question the legal and valid representation of the governments of the other States Parties. The continuation of such a negative precedent will turn the OPCW into further politicisation and polarisation of the Organisation and the States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.

My delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Ninety-Sixth Session of the Executive Council and posted on the public and external website of the OPCW.

Thank you.

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