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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA KAZEMI ABADI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7(E)**

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation expresses its serious concerns that in recent years, a few non-consensual decisions are overruling the Chemical Weapons Convention. The decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3) is an example of this and was the inappropriate output of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties. The consequences of this decision, adopted with only 82 votes in favour, is clearly reminiscent of the fact that this Organisation is going far away from its traditional consensus, especially on vital issues. The decision has unacceptably tasked the Technical Secretariat with conducting attribution-oriented investigations and thereby deflecting the Organisation from its technical and specialised nature and well-defined mandate.

The establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and its reports are another consequence of the aforementioned decision. The first report of the IIT was not grounded on valid and reliable information and sources, and it led to another unfair and unacceptable decision in the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council (EC-94/DEC.2) ignoring seven years of cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Technical Secretariat. The second report of the IIT was published in an unprofessional and improper move just one week before the second part of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and was inserted in its annotated provisional agenda while the States Parties did not have enough time to look into the report and study the information therein.

The decision “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9) just like its preceding decision (EC-94/DEC.2) takes from a politicised and unrealistic offensive approach towards the Syrian Arab Republic and ignores the constant and growing cooperation of this State Party with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. Undoubtedly, this decision suffers deeply from the lack of both fairness and legality. The States Parties and Organisation must put an end to this vicious circle on the Syrian issue and seek constructive and effective solutions to resolve it in accordance with the Convention and in good faith.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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