



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH MANSO
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE STATEMENT BY THE
DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE OPCW**

Iran's national statement raises unfounded questions about the United States' commitment to complete destruction of the remaining United States' chemical weapons stockpile. The United States of America has completed the destruction of 97 percent of its declared stockpile and is on track to meet the planned completion date of 30 September 2023. The United States of America has been transparent in our destruction progress and timeline and has remained on track since the date was announced in 2012.

As our most recent report to the Executive Council ("the Council") shows, the United States of America is expending an additional one billion dollars (EUR 857 million) to install and operate static detonation chambers at both the Pueblo and Blue Grass destruction facilities to accelerate the destruction rate while ensuring continued safety to our stakeholders. The United States of America will spend over 13 billion dollars (EUR 11.22 billion) to complete destruction at the Pueblo and Blue Grass facilities. This is on top of the one billion dollars the United States of America spent assisting the Russian Federation in the destruction of its declared stockpile and the additional, significant resources spent assisting other States Parties. Since the submission of the report being considered, the United States of America informed the Technical Secretariat of the completion of destruction activities at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber in Kentucky, marking yet another milestone in the United States' destruction effort.

The United States of America has demonstrated extraordinary transparency about plans to destroy our fully declared chemical weapons stockpile, and we continue to review all opportunities to accelerate our planned completion date. We are utilising our technical, financial, and personnel resources to complete destruction as soon as practicable, while keeping worker, public, and environmental safety as priorities. The United States of America is expending an additional one billion dollars (EUR 857 million) to maintain a continuous presence of OPCW inspectors at both of our destruction facilities to ensure continued verified destruction of our declared stockpile despite the pandemic. The United States' commitment to the complete and verified destruction of the former United States' chemical weapons programme is beyond reproach.

I ask that this statement be designated an official document of this Council session and posted on both the external server and the public website.

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