

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadai
of the Islamic Republic of Iran on agenda item 7(e) entitled
“Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” at the
Ninety-Ninth Session of
the Executive Council**

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation expresses its serious concerns that in recent years, a few non-consensual decisions are overruling the 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 States Parties. The Consequences of this Decision, adopted with only 82 votes in favor, is clearly reminiscent of the fact that this organization 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 Organization from its technical and specialized 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 States Parties and inserted in its annotated provisional agenda while the States Parties didn't 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 politicized 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 Organization 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