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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 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran once again reaffirms the importance of preserving the authority and integrity of the Convention and the OPCW. It indeed requires the OPCW and its teams to work impartially, independently, and professionally to ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. These are also of extreme importance with regard to the case of Syria.

As we have said on different occasions, this issue has unfortunately been politicised, resulting in undermining the Convention's authority and its effective implementation, as well as the OPCW's credibility, which precludes this Organisation from fulfilling its well-defined mandate in accordance with the Convention.

My delegation notes with appreciation that since the Syrian Arab Republic acceded to the Convention, and in spite of all the difficulties on its territory, there has been considerable progress on the Syrian issue, and constructive cooperation has been established between the parties so far. In addition, my delegation has noticed that this process has led to tangible progress and the closure of some outstanding issues. Thus, a continued cooperative approach would enable the parties to resolve all outstanding issues.

As we heard repeatedly, Syria welcomes the OPCW's deployment of the Declaration Assessment Team for the twenty-fifth round of consultations. Similarly, it welcomes all members of the team and has expressed willingness to grant them the necessary visas immediately, except for one member of the team about whom Syria has reservations. While recognising that Syria is exercising its sovereign rights and that this is not unprecedented, my delegation invites both sides to solve the issue with good faith and according to previous practice. There seems no legitimate reason to suspend a mission as a whole, where only a member of the team is unable to take part in the mission and can be replaced.

We are of the view that a high-level meeting could be an opportunity to address the concerns relating to working methods, the terms of reference, the future plans of the Fact-Finding Mission, and other pertinent matters. Thus, we encourage the parties to hold this meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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