

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 101TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(b)

Mr. Chairperson,

The international community has agreed that chemical weapons have no place in today's arsenals, and this Organisation is established to guarantee realisation of this norm. The OPCW, together with its Member States, are committed to the total elimination of chemical weapons stockpiles under the watchful eye of the OPCW's verification regime. Definitely, the destruction of all chemical weapons is the most important commitment of the States Parties to the Convention and constitutes the top priority for the OPCW. However, despite several extensions of destruction deadline and after 25 years of the implementation of the Convention, this obligation has not been fulfilled yet.

The Council heard this morning and in its previous session that the world might eventually achieve this high goal in 2023, as the sole possessor State Party would destruct its remaining chemical weapons.

We firmly believe that, since chemical weapons have proven to be a scourge on humanity, the sole possessor State Party shall comply with its obligations under the Convention and relevant decisions of the policy-making organs and accelerate its efforts by making use of all relevant technologies and methods to complete the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles in the shortest possible time.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.