

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(g)

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Technical Secretariat for convening the meeting to update the States Parties of the Syrian Issue Status on 28 Sept. 2022, before the 101st Session of the Executive Council.

My delegation has time and again expressed its serious concerns that in recent years, a few non-consensual decisions are overruling the Chemical Weapons Convention, which led to more polarisation and politicisation of this august body. Undoubtedly, the lack of consensus and common understanding among States Parties on critical and cross-cutting issues precludes the Organisation from achieving the noble goal of the Convention, a world free of chemical weapons, which is its *raison d'être*.

The decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3) is an instance 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 substantive 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 establishment of this Team is not only beyond the scope of the Convention, but also is a blatant violation of its provisions. Furtherly, such mechanism which was created to serve as a pressure tool against Syria has exacerbated the politicisation and polarization of the Organisation.

Similarly to its preceding decision, the decision “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9), ignores the cooperation of this State Party, since its accession to the Convention, with the Technical Secretariat.

Last but not least, the Islamic republic of Iran as a major victim, in contemporary history, of the most systematic use of chemical weapons, once again condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.