

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 10(h)

Mr. Chairperson,

The Organization for the prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) should enjoy the financial and human resources needed to fulfill its well-defined mandate. In this regard, the Programme and Budget of the OPCW which was guided by the Organisation's core objectives, should be adopted by consensus and take into account the concerns of all the States Parties.

Unfortunately, this was not the case for the Programme and Budget of the Organisation for 2022-2023. It was adopted by voting, and did not consider the concerns of the States Parties properly.

It is evident that the current approach for drafting the revised Programme and Budget, in an omnibus format, consisting of controversial parts, such as the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), will clearly cause more divergence and polarity among the States Parties.

In accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules (Article 6.3c), the cash surplus shall be allocated among the States Parties. Meanwhile, funding the deficit from the cash surplus of 2020 is not a sustainable and appropriate solution. In addition, the decision of Programme and Budget (C-26/DEC.11) has specified resources to finance the expenditure appropriated for 2022-2023.

Lastly, increasing the budget of the Organization for 2023 will have negative consequences on the States Parties, that many of them are already facing the economic difficulties due to Covid-19 and the other global hardships.

Undoubtedly, budget discipline and saving on unnecessary expenses will help effectively to reimburse for this year's budget deficit as an appropriate solution.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.