

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(1)

Mr. Chairman,

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) shall employ experienced inspectors who possess the relevant skills and expertise to implement the Convention's operational requirements and maintain chemical weapons verification skills within the Technical Secretariat.

The recruitment system of this non-career Organization is designed with the goal of providing the OPCW with the efficient human resources through the exchange of expertise and experts between the Organization and the States Parties, which provides the opportunity to share experiences and to promote expert's capabilities.

This system has been applied since the establishment of the Organization and has worked properly, so far. Furthermore, In accordance with the OPCW Staff Regulations (Article IV), authority has also been granted to the Director General, to extend the total length of service of Secretariat staff, which guarantees preserving the institutional memory and expertise within the Organization, and would promote the capability of the OPCW to respond to challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic.

While we attach importance to preserve the institutional memory and expertise of the Technical Secretariat, particularly in the areas that are of high needs, as indicated by the Director-General, rehiring of the inspectors should not turn to a rule but to remain an exception resorted to in exceptional conditions. Continued rehiring would undermine the

provisions of the Convention. This is even more important in the view of those countries that are underrepresented in the Secretariat.

Moreover, the paramount consideration in the appointment, transfer and promotion of staff is the necessity for securing the highest standards of efficiency, professional competence and integrity and due regard should be paid to the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible. Recruitment has to be guided by the principle that the staff must be kept to a minimum necessary for the proper discharge of the responsibilities of the Secretariat.

Consequently, my delegation expresses its reservation on this draft decision. As the OPCW is a non-career Organisation, and the total length of service for staff is seven years, we underline that the tenure policy as outlined by the Convention shall be maintained, and all efforts should be made to keep rehiring of inspectors to a minimum necessary.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.