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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 13

Mr Chairperson,

The Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) should enjoy the financial and human resources needed to fulfil 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 is evident that the current approach for drafting the revised Programme and Budget—in an omnibus format, that consists 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 2020 cash surplus is not a sustainable or appropriate solution. In addition, the decision of the Programme and Budget (C-26/DEC.11, dated 1 December 2021) has specified resources to finance the expenditure appropriated for 2022–2023.

Lastly, increasing the budget of the Organisation for 2023 will have negative consequences on the States Parties, many of which are already facing economic difficulties due to COVID-19 and other global hardships. Undoubtedly, budget discipline and saving on unnecessary expenses will help compensate this year's budget deficit.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website and Catalyst portal.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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