

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 AGEND 18

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me begin by thanking the Director-General for his comprehensive report on the progress made and review of the status of implementation of Article XI.

The Chemical Weapons Convention is a balanced instrument as it seeks total elimination of chemical weapons while ensuring, through international cooperation, access of States Parties to peaceful chemical industries. Accordingly, international cooperation in chemical activities for peaceful purposes is one of the main pillars of the Convention without which its implementation is incomplete and ultimately unviable. It is not largesse but an international obligation upon all States Parties. They should review their national and regional regulations governing international exchanges and transfers of chemicals in order to ensure their consistency with the provisions of the Convention, particularly with the view to implement Article XI, effectively and in a non-discriminatory manner. The States Parties shall also remove any trade barrier or unilateral or multilateral restriction that may impede development of promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical or other peaceful purposes.

However, certain States Parties are still in defiance of Article XI by persistently imposing on other State Parties, including my country, unilateral sanctions which restrict all chemical activities for peaceful purposes. My delegation firmly believes that imposition of such unilateral sanctions is a violation of the Convention and needs to be addressed promptly and adequately by the relevant policy organs of the OPCW, including this Conference.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.