



OPCW

Review Conference

Fifth Session
15 – 19 May 2023

RC-5/NAT.41
17 May 2023
ENGLISH only

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL
WEAPONS CONVENTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(B)**

Mr Chairperson,

The universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention is essential to achieve its object and purpose and ensure international peace and security. Although commendable progress has been made since its entry into force, and now 193 States are Party to the Convention, serious concerns exist regarding the few remaining non parties.

This Conference should urge those that have not ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so without further delay and preconditions, especially the Israeli regime, which is not a member of any WMD treaties and possesses such inhumane weapons. To that end, it is important that the States Parties consider concrete measures such as the prohibition of transferring scheduled chemicals to non parties. They should not be allowed to take advantage of the benefits offered to States Parties, including the services of the ChemTech Centre and capacity-building programmes of the Organisation. That would convey a strong message to the non parties and demonstrate the existence of a strong will on the part of the States Parties for promotion of the universality of the Convention.

Furthermore, my delegation underlines the importance of the Action Plan on Universality and invites States Parties to take every opportunity at bilateral, regional, and international levels, to implement the Action Plan and deploy their best efforts to expedite the accession of all non parties to the Convention.

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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