



Statement by

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In the name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful

**Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

It is a great pleasure for me, to address the 12th Conference of States Parties of the Chemical Weapons Convention. At the outset I would like to congratulate Ambassador Edris of Sudan for his assumption of the Chairmanship of the Conference of State Parties and wish you every success.

I would also like to thank the Director General Ambassador, Rogelio Pfirter and his colleagues in the Technical Secretariat for their exertion to advance the objectives of the Convention.

During the first decade after the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the OPCW has focused, to a notable extent, on development of its institutional capacity. As we drive forward, there is the need to strengthen our efforts towards full implementation of all provisions of the Convention, including ensuring universality of the Convention, meeting the final deadline for complete destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles, removing the obstacles to the full and effective implementation of Article XI of the Convention and taking specific measures to provide assistance and care for thousands of chemical weapons victims across the globe and in particular in Iran and Iraq.

Complete destruction of chemical weapons and the chemical weapons production facilities is the most important objective of the CWC, which is yet to be attained. The original deadline set by the Convention for the full destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles was 29 April 2007 but, upon the request of the major possessor States, the 11th conference decided to extend final deadline, as envisaged by the provisions of the convention, to fulfill their obligations under the provisions of the Articles IV and V of the Convention. For the sake of credibility of the Convention all possessor states must take all necessary measures to meet the final deadline and to destroy all their Chemical weapons before 29 April 2012.

The non-possessor States Parties also have a role to play. They should remain vigilant and closely monitor the implementation of the obligations of the possessors. There is no room for complacency while chemical weapons still continue to threaten the life of the mankind and that of our environment. In this context, it should be noted that the role of the Director General and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW to conduct the visits to major possessor states and report the situation to the EC and the CSP is of high significance. We believe that the Second CWC Review Conference in 2008 would provide a propitious opportunity to review further progress in chemical weapons destruction.

In addition to the complete destruction of chemical weapons, accession of all non-parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention is imperative for the realization of a world free of chemical weapons. As the last victim of the use of these inhuman weapons, we deeply regret that some countries are still staying out of the Convention.

In this connection, special attention should be accorded to the Middle East region, in particular to the situation of Zionist regime's chemical weapons program and capability and its accession to all international disarmament instruments. Non accession of this regime to all international disarmament treaties practically provides justification for some other countries in the region not to accede to the CWC and that provides challenges for the universality of the Convention. This regime with its weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and nuclear weapons, is the most dangerous threat against regional and international peace and security. It should be underlined that, the Middle East is one of the very few regions in which chemical weapons have been used since the First World War.

Another essential element for the full implementation of the Convention is promotion of free trade in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry among State Parties. Based on this principle, the Convention has to facilitate chemical trade among states parties for peaceful purposes. Due to double standard by certain member states and application of some arbitrary extra conventional restrictions to exchange of technology, material and equipment for peaceful purposes among the CWC States Parties, unfortunately, the provisions of Article XI are yet to be fully implemented. In this regard according to the Para 2e of this Article all export control regimes shall be brought in line with the provisions of the Convention to promote chemical trade among States Parties

The CSP at its 11th session has mandated the EC to explore all options and submit concrete measures for the full implementation of Article XI and to present a report to this session. We hope this CSP would be able to make an appropriate decision on this very important issue which is of high importance to developing countries. Lessons learned in the implementation of other articles of the convention shall guide us in the full implementation of Article XI.

Subscribing to the statement of the Non Aligned Movement, we firmly believe that Technical Secretariat shall continue to observe the tenure policy. It should ensure, among others, the opportunity for the developing States Parties specially those with active participation in the work of the OPCW to be represented in the TS properly.

The 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Chemical Weapons Convention is a high time for celebration. Its simultaneity with the 20th anniversary of the chemical attacks by Saddam's Regime against the civilians in Sardasht city in Iran, gives a particular meaning to the relevance and contribution of this convention to the international peace and security.

Taking the advantages of these two occasions, my country, as the last victim of the mass use of these horrible weapons, has held many commemorative ceremonies in 2007. On 9th May a seminar with the presence of the resident diplomats was held in Tehran. That followed by a scientific seminar in Beheshti University on 27 June. A commemorative gathering with the presence of the victims of chemical weapons was held in Sardasht city on 28 June. To explore the last methods for the effective

treatment of the victims of chemical weapons, two specific medical congresses were organized respectively in Mashhad and Isfahan. Besides, a special magazine was published in June and a memorial stamp, which would be distributed among the delegations today in this Session, was printed. Finally, “the International Seminar on the Consequences of the Use of Chemical Weapons Against Iran”, with valuable support of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and participation of researchers from all around the world, was held in Tehran, on 22-23 October 2007. Medical, social, political, legal, military and environmental consequences of the use of chemical weapons were discussed by the foreign and Iranian participants.

Mr Chairman,

I feel obliged to highlight the disturbing conditions of the Iranian victims of chemical weapons. Iran faces a horrifying experience with more than 100,000 military and civilian victims as a result of Saddam's chemical attacks on Iran during the 8 years imposed war, using various types of chemical agents. Thousands of our citizens either lost their lives or suffered from chemical injuries. We cannot do anything for those victims who have passed away, but could help alleviate the suffering of the survivors. This situation has also imposed a financial and logistical burden on the Iranian government in terms of providing necessary services to over 60,000 chemical injured persons.

In order to prevent the recurrence of similar tragedies and to serve the international peace and security, those criminals who have assisted Saddam in the development and use of such inhuman weapons must be brought to justice. The perpetrators of such crimes should not enjoy impunity. It is highly expected that all those countries whose companies or individuals have been involved in such crimes abide by their legal and moral responsibilities and put such perpetrators on trial and foresee compensation for the damages and harms incurred by the victims of chemical weapons.

Dear Colleagues,

Participants of the international seminar in Tehran supported the proposal of H.E. Manouchehr Mottaki, Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, that has been made during his statement to the CWC Eleventh Conference of States Parties on the establishment of the "Chemical Weapons Victim's International Funding & Assistance Network" and urged the Director General, the Executive Council, the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties of the OPCW to take major steps for realization of this proposal.

I have the honor to request the Director General as well as State Parties to contribute to this sacred goal. It should be noted that the declaration of the seminar would be forwarded to the TS through an official note by the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Organization.

I thank you Mr. Chairman and wish you a fruitful Session.