



OPCW

Conference of the States Parties

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IRAN

**PROPOSAL BY THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
“INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT NETWORK FOR THE VICTIMS OF CHEMICAL
WEAPONS”**

Paragraph 11 of Article X of the Convention stipulates assistance to the victims of chemical weapons (hereinafter VCW). This paragraph gives mandate to the Conference of the States Parties and the Technical Secretariat to allocate adequate resources to meet the needs of VCW.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in 2003 proposed that an international support network for the VCW be established under the provisions of Article X of the Convention. This would be an important tool to enable the States Parties facing chemical weapons and a positive step for achieving the objects of Article X as a pillar of the Convention. The OPCW is the sole competent international body with statutory mandate with regard to chemical weapons and victims of such weapons. It is expected that the Organisation takes the lead and initiative to become the main communication channel for potential contributors to such network in support for VCW.

To this end, the delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran provides possible elements and functions of such network as follows. It is expected that the Conference of the States Parties gives mandate to the Executive Council and the Director-General to follow up establishing the proposed network at the earliest.

The role and contributions by the OPCW:

- Establishing a data bank on the VCW to include, inter alia, the following:
 - o Medical needs of the VCW
 - o Information on offers of the States Parties to the VCW
 - o Support for the VCW and relevant NGOs to attend the OPCW and other international events to promote the cause of the Chemical Weapons Convention
 - o Inventory of related national, regional and international, governmental and non-governmental organisations dealing with different aspects of the VCW and facilitating their contacts.



- Allocating space on the OPCW website to release information on the VCW including, inter alia, stories, memories, pictures, etc.
- Coordinating of and acquiring States Parties' and other related international assistance for the VCW
- Establishing and maintaining a voluntary fund to finance provision of assistance to the VCW
- Allocating adequate resources to medical research on fields needed by the VCW with priority in the context of ICA programmes
- Convening workshops and seminars aiming to raise awareness on the VCW needs and to promote provision of assistance to them.

The States Parties' contributions:

- Facilitation of transfer of related materials, equipment and technologies to the States Parties having the VCW
- Providing the VCW with medical treatments in their own countries in case of the need and non-availability of such services in the homeland
- Exchange of experiences related to the VCW treatment among the States Parties
- Providing research scholarships to the developing States Parties in the field of the VCW treatment
- Encouraging stakeholders and private sectors to provide voluntary assistance to the OPCW voluntary fund on the VCW
- Promoting awareness about the VCW at the national level in order to draw the attention of the public to contribute to the aims of assisting the VCW.

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