

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN****THE OPCW AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY****Introduction:**

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches utmost importance to the letter and the spirit of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (hereinafter “the Convention”), particularly the provisions envisaged in Article XI on international cooperation, and while reiterating all OPCW relevant documents adopted by consensus, would like to express its views on scientific and technological advancements and their impacts on the Convention as follows:

1. Undoubtedly, scientific and technological advancement in chemistry plays an important role in effective and peaceful use of the science in betterment of the life of the peoples. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming the advancements in scientific and technological fields as well as enhancement of international cooperation, is of the belief that the impact of scientific and technological development on the Convention should be in line with the goals enshrined in the Convention and confined to the framework thereof.
2. Given the objectives of Article XI of the Convention regarding the transfer of technology and information for peaceful purposes and the lack of progress or indeed reluctance of certain States Parties to implement the provisions of Article XI, scientific and technological development shall facilitate full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Article XI and the States Parties in possession of modern science and technologies must play their own part in this connection in an effective and efficient manner. Regrettably, the OPCW reports and documents make trivial reference to using existing capacity and activating Article XI on international cooperation.
3. Any decision on the impact of scientific and technological development on any part of the Convention is to be made through consensus, taking into account fully observations and considerations made by all States Parties.
4. As far as the overlap between the Convention and other international treaties including Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is concerned, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that the OPCW financial and human resources should not be diverted to the activities not covered clearly by the Convention. The other similar treaties rather should enjoy and have their own budget and international mechanism.



5. With regard to the issue of “open source information”, the mechanism set out for implementing the Convention is based upon declarations submitted by States Parties and therefore the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that use of the so-called open source data is inconsistent with the text of the Convention. On this basis, for the full implementation of the Convention and the stepping up of the knowledge gained by National Authorities, the Secretariat should produce advisory reports and hold professional training courses using the educational capacities in cooperation with the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach (ABEO). Meanwhile this should be done by taking into consideration the experiences gained from declarations received from States Parties and the problems National Authorities are facing in submitting complete and timely declarations.
6. Furthermore, if scientific and technological advancement in chemistry suggests excluding certain chemicals from declaration, considering the low risk of these materials’ process in producing chemical weapons, we can support it.

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