



OPCW

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
ON THE PROPOSAL BY CHINA AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
AT THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

Since I have taken the floor for the first time in this august body, let me congratulate you Ambassador Lee, chairperson of the Conference for your election. I would also like to congratulate Ambassador Arias, Director-General, for his appointment.

The OPCW, our Organisation, through constructive collaboration among all States Parties had already achieved outstanding successes. These accomplishments were beholden to various factors, on top of which has been respect to consensual decision making. We believe that consensus is a valuable tradition in all WMD treaties, and we ought to protect it for further successes of the Organisation. It is taken from the most important principle of undiminished security for all adopted in the First Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly for Disarmament (SSOD I).

However, this principle is at risk. The intention of some States Parties to ignore this way of decision making, along with frequent attempts to politicise the Organisation, are threatening the efficiency and also independence of the Organisation. As proven in the Fourth Special Session of the CSP, a weak decision, not a victory, to accord the responsibility of the attribution to the OPCW or to the Technical Secretariat, by votes of only 82 States Parties, ironically even less than half of the OPCW Member States, runs the risk of undermining the Organisation's independence and impartiality, and as we have already mentioned, it will damage the OPCW and the Convention itself from different angles, including from a legal point of view. In fact, the said decision is a substantial change to the text of the Convention and the Organisation, which is required to proceed through an amendment conference as provided in Article XV of the Convention. We strongly and persistently object to this manner and decision, and we urge the Conference, bearing in mind the undesirable implications of that decision, to redress the situation and come up with a result adopted by consensus.

In this regard, we support the proposal by China and the Russian Federation. In our view, the establishment of an open-ended working group will help redress the undesirable situation of division between the States Parties. We urge all Member States to support this proposal.

I thank you Mr Chair.

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