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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
ON THE UNIVERSALITY OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS
CONVENTION**

The Universality of the Convention of Chemical Weapons (hereinafter “the Convention”) is important because it entails both disarmament and non-proliferation of chemical weapons. The universality is essential to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention and to enhance the security of the States Parties. The Fourth Review Conference should underscore the fact that the objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single State not Party that could possess or acquire such weapons. Attaining a world without chemical weapons is the aspiration of the international community as well as this Organisation.

The establishment of a zone free of chemical weapons – and all other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) – in the Middle East, is also important and consistent with the objective of universality of the Convention. The Fourth Review Conference should strongly urge those States not Party yet to the Convention to ratify or accede to it without delay and precondition, especially the Israeli regime because its non-adherence is a cause for serious concern since it is not a member of any WMD conventions and it possesses such inhumane weapons. The Fourth Review Conference should welcome the fact that since the Third Review Conference the number of States Parties to the Convention has risen to 193 with the ratification or accession of the Somali Democratic Republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of Angola and the State of Palestine.

It is in contravention of the letter and spirit of the Convention that the remaining outsiders be able to take advantage of the benefits that the Convention offers to its States Parties. Enjoying such benefits by the States not-Party reduces their incentive to accede to the Convention.

The danger of production, acquisition and use of chemical weapons by terrorist groups is a matter of serious concern. These concerns have highlighted the necessity of achieving universal adherence to the Convention. Non-adherence to the Convention increases the risk of chemical terrorism. As long as the universality of this Convention is yet to be realised the threat of the use of this inhumane weapon will continue and the goals and objectives of this instrument remain unfulfilled.

I thank you.

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