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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
AT THE TWENTY-THIRD SESSION  
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 16**

Mr Chairman,

On this agenda item, my delegation would like to put on record our profound disappointment on the lack of progress in the implementation of Article XI of the Convention. According to paragraph 1 of Article XI, the provisions of the Convention shall be implemented in a manner which avoids hampering the economic or technological development of the States Parties, and international cooperation in the field of chemical activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, including the international exchange of scientific and technical information, chemicals and equipment for the production, processing or use of chemicals for purposes not prohibited under the Convention. Despite the efforts made to this end, the facts on the ground indicates to non-compliance of some States Parties with their obligations, and objectives of Article XI are not materialised in a full and effective manner so far.

In the same vein, the Islamic Republic of Iran, while welcoming some limited efforts on international cooperation, strongly rejects imposing discriminatory restrictions and particularly unilateral sanctions against Member States. The situation is aggravated by the illegitimate unilateral sanction of the one State Party in the field of peaceful uses of chemistry in contradiction to the Convention. Other associated restrictions imposed by that country which affects directly the health and medication of the Iranian victims of chemical weapons and their access to medicines are in full non-compliance with the Convention and international law. According to subparagraph (c) of Article XI, States Parties shall not maintain among themselves any restrictions, including those in any international agreements, incompatible with the obligations undertaken under this Convention, restricting or impeding trade, development and promotion of scientific and technological knowledge in the field of chemistry for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical or other peaceful purposes.

It is essential for all States Parties, particularly developed ones, to play their important part in full, effective, non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI. The same logic leads to the importance and necessity of establishing an Action Plan for Full implementation of Article XI as it has been the case with Article VII and universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention ("hereinafter the Convention). Given the lack of proper attention to the Article XI in activities of the OPCW, Member States expect, to promptly attain full and effective implementation thereof, that the budget dedicated by the OPCW to this, be elevated. Taking



the goals envisaged in the Article into consideration, it is expected that the technology share be elevated in the OPCW training courses especially for the developing countries and the above-mentioned courses be confined to the Convention objectives, refraining from dedicating limited resources of the Organisation to chemicals safety conventions. According to paragraph 1. of Article XII of the Convention, it is expected that the Conference of the States Parties would take the necessary measures to redress and remedy any situation which contravenes the provisions of this Convention and pave the way for abolishing discriminatory trade procedures and unilateral sanctions against States.

It is expected that, in order to expedite the materialisation of the main goals envisaged in Article XI, a committee be formed by the Review Conference for assessing the operation and conformity of the OPCW and States Parties to full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

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