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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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

Mr Chairperson,

During the eight-year imposed war by Saddam's regime on Iran, with a huge number of victims of chemical weapons, the Islamic Republic of Iran decided to build the necessary national capability for repulsing chemical agents used by Saddam's army, with a view to addressing the challenge as well as the treatment and rehabilitation of the Iranian victims of chemical weapons.

Currently Iran enjoys unique national experiences and capabilities in the field of "assistance and protection against chemical weapons", an achievement that Iran is prepared to share with other States Parties for the humanitarian aims to fulfil also its obligations under the Convention. As a vivid example, the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially expressed its readiness to offer assistance in case of the use of chemical weapons under Article X of the Chemical Weapons Convention (hereinafter "the Convention").

Moreover, several training courses have been held by Iran on medical treatment of the victims of chemical weapons for the experts and specialists of the States Parties. The latest course of this nature was held in Tehran in October 2018.

Article X of the Convention is the most obvious embodiment of the humanitarian goals envisaged in the Convention for safeguarding assistance and protection against the use, or threat of use, of chemical weapons against any State Party. Such assurance can be materialised, inter-alia, through national capacity building in each State Party to the Convention as provided by paragraph 2 of Article X and also based on the obligation of the States Parties to develop their national capacity according to paragraph 3 of Article X.

Regarding the definition of assistance within the Convention's framework, paragraph 1 of Article X, enumerates the supply of detectors, warning systems, protection equipment, decontamination tools and materials, antitoxins and medical and clinical drugs as well as providing guidance on these protective arrangements, as the most obvious cases of assistance to fulfil obligation under Article X.

As far as the Convention's humanitarian objectives are concerned, many of the States Parties to the Convention attach great importance to the implementation of this article, stressing that,



without effective application of Article X as well as Article XI, there would be no balance between the rights and obligations envisaged for the States Parties under the Convention.

Since the voluntary nature of Assistance Fund allocated for the contribution of States Parties for the implementation of Article X does not serve attaining the Article X objectives, it is quite necessary to consider the possibility of direct allocation of resources within the OPCW regular programme and budget. Indeed, the possibility of such action is foreseen in paragraph 11 of Article X, where it mandates the Director-General to consider certain funds within the OPCW resources for Article X.

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