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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

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

Mr Chairman,

Destruction of chemical weapons is the main pillar of the Convention. It is unfortunate that the United States of America, as the only possessor of the chemical weapons stockpiles, not only failed to meet the final extended deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons but also sought to delay the fulfilment of its obligations until 2023. Nevertheless, this State Party that has deferred the chemical weapons disarmament for around two decades, instead of expediting the completion of its process of destruction has the audacity to go around the Organisation to find other States Parties and accuse them.

We should not lose sight of the fact that the destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile of the United States presumably continues until the Fifth Review Conference in 2023, obviously it should remain as the highest future priority of the Organisation in this Session of the Conference.

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