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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

STATE OF PALESTINE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RAWAN SULAYMAN
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

The State of Palestine stresses that the source of legitimacy for the government of any sovereign State is the people. The Venezuelan people have elected President Maduro.

Once again, the United States of America is proclaiming itself the grantor of legitimacy, bestowing it on, and stripping it from, whomever it pleases.

The State of Palestine has always rejected, and continues to reject, any attempt by the United States of America to politicise the work of the OPCW.

The State of Palestine underscores the importance of holding accountable - not asking - the United States of America for its intentions in this regard.

Today, the United States is trying to pass at the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons what it has failed to have passed at the United Nations Security Council. This is an attempt to politicise the work of the OPCW and divert it from its fundamental principles.

The State of Palestine supports the peaceful settlement, through dialogue, of any internal differences. The State of Palestine rejects any foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Republic of Venezuela.

Leave the Venezuelans alone!

The State of Palestine associates itself with the statement delivered by Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, the Permanent and legitimate Representative of the Federal, Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, on behalf of the Group of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

The State of Palestine hopes that the group of the Non-Aligned Movement and China will maintain their unity, and recall the principles of the Non-Aligned Movement based on human rights and the principles of the United Nations Charter, namely respect for States' sovereignty; no interference or meddling in the internal affairs of other States; respect for the



right of every State to self-defence, in addition to the non-use of collective defence alliances to serve the interests of any large State.

Finally, the State of Palestine emphasises the responsibilities of the States parties in rejecting attempts by the United States of America or any State to politicise the work of the OPCW and divert it from its fundamental principles, namely the non-proliferation of chemical weapons.

My country's delegation requests that this statement be adopted as an official document of this session of the Executive Council, and posted on the OPCW website.

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