



OPCW

Executive Council

Sixty-Fourth Meeting
10 May 2019

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ENGLISH only

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR KENNETH D. WARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AT THE SIXTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

It is United States policy to seek to deny countries that have been designated by the Secretary of State as State Sponsors of Terrorism, the political legitimacy derived from significant leadership positions in international fora. Consequently, the United States opposes the candidacy of Iran for the Vice-Chair leadership role at the OPCW.

Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and remains the most significant challenge to Middle East stability. Iran repeatedly works to protect Syria from international censure for the Assad regime's horrific use of chemical weapons.

However, in the interests of ensuring the orderly rotation of the Executive Council ("the Council"), the United States does not intend to prevent consensus from going forward on this agenda item. But to be clear, the United States disassociates itself from this consensus and requests that the Report of Sixty-Fourth Meeting of the Council reflect this position.

Thank you.

I would ask that this statement be an official document of the Sixty-Fourth Meeting of the Council and be posted on the website and the external server.

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