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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR ALIREZA KAZEMI ABADI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIRST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

Mr Chairperson  
Mr Director General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, allow me to congratulate Your Excellency Ambassador Andrea Perugini on your assumption as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. I wish you all the success and assure you of our full cooperation.

We would like to associate ourselves with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

We would also like to note the comprehensive report delivered by the Director-General, H. E. Mr Fernando Arias.

We seize this opportunity as well to recall recent important statement delivered by the Director-General in memory of the victims of the chemical weapon attacks in Sardasht as commemorated on 28 June 2019. Indeed, this statement is entitled to receive worldwide attention.

My delegation appreciates the attempts made by the Co-facilitators Ambassador I Gusti Agung Wesaka Puja Permanent Representative of Indonesia and Ambassador Agustin Vásquez Gómez, Permanent Representative of El Salvador to conduct facilitations and hold constructive consultations with the States Parties. It is unfortunate that despite a few rounds of discussions, the proposal by the Non-Aligned Movement and China on the establishment of an Open-Ended Working Group to identify and prioritise the implementation of items on which consensus is achievable among State Parties has not yet reached an agreed conclusion.



The Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) has been negotiated with the aim to eradicate an entire class of weapons of mass destruction to ensure that such inhumane weapons never be used. Yet this novel objective is to be realized by the full implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

The Convention is unique as its provisions amongst others exclude any discriminatory approach which might jeopardise all efforts towards the universality of this fundamental instrument. We are convinced that adherence to objectives of the Convention necessitates a similar and consistent approach towards full and effective implementation of all its provisions.

It is unfortunate that despite our shared destination as realized in this legally binding instrument, States Parties to the Convention now witness unilateral restrictions imposed and maintained by certain States Parties against others. This approach not only is a clear violation of the Convention and compromises its integrity, but also undermines high aspirations of its founding fathers.

Furthermore, this inhumane action has inflicted tremendous sufferings on 63,000 Iranian victims of chemical weapons who are in urgent need of essential medicaments and equipment. We shall not be careless to those people now suffering from this unilateral action.

This is just one example of the Challenges that the Convention is facing at the implementation level. To overcome those challenges, as described above, we need to act collectively and avoid selective implementation of provisions of the Convention.

To that end, Article XI as one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention has the full potential especially in addressing the ever-increasing gap between developed and developing countries.

The international community remains seriously concerned over the continued existence of the chemical weapons as a threat to peace and security and a major impediment to attain a world without chemical weapons. The object and purpose of the Convention would only be realised by complete destruction of such weapons. To that end, all the efforts should be made to confront this threat and explore ways and means to ensure the destruction of chemical weapons at the earliest.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic while combating the terrorist groups and suffering from the illegal foreign military interventions, including the Israeli Regime, has taken distinct and positive steps to complete the destruction of its chemical weapons and related facilities. In this regard the following developments are worth mentioning:

- The Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) has verified the destruction of all 27 declared chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs)
- The Syrian Arab Republic submits regularly its monthly reports regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its Chemical Weapons and their Production Facilities (CWPFs)
- The dialogue between the Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic on all chemical weapons-related issues pursuant to the agreed framework is progressing

- More than twenty rounds of technical consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and Syria took place and all outstanding issues were discussed with a view to developing a plan of future activities and the technical meetings with the Syrian National Authority is continuing

The aforementioned developments along with the other activities implemented by the Syrian Arab Republic in collaboration with the Secretariat indicate that Syria has been cooperative in relation to its obligations towards the Convention.

The activities of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria should be of a technical nature at highest standard, carried out on a pragmatic, professional and depoliticised basis. It is unfortunate that the recent information we have received about the report of this Team on the incident in Douma, on 7 April 2018 has indicated adversely.

Attribution which is the result of the 4th Special Conference of States Parties through a non-consensual and controversial Decision (C-SS-4/DEC.3) has diverted the Organisation from its very technical nature. My delegation reiterates its discontent with the attempts to allocate budget and human resources as well as to pay too much attention to the establishment of investigation and identification Team (IIT) and the highly politicised process of attribution on which there was no consensus among the States Parties.

The bitter experience of certain recent event(s) manifests that we need strictly to abide by the consensus rule which has enabled so far the OPCW to work effectively towards fulfilment of its mandate. To achieve our common goals, we have responsibility to act together to ensure that event(s) will not outlaw the trend towards consensus which the Convention is based on.

In conclusion, Mr Chairperson, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson

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