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**IRAN (ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF)**

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

In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful,

Mr Chairperson  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I thank you, Mr Chairperson, and welcome you back to chair the Ninety-Second Session of the Executive Council (“the Council”). I wish you success and assure you of full cooperation of my delegation.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah, Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and China.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the Director-General, His Excellency Ambassador Fernando Arias, for his comprehensive report delivered in this Session.

The universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and destruction of chemical weapons are the main prerequisites for a successful and comprehensive chemical disarmament and essential to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention as well as to enhance the security of States Parties, particularly in the volatile region of the Middle East where Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) of the Israeli regime are major threats to the neighbouring countries and to international peace and security.

The full destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles as one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention has not yet been completed due to the fact that the United States of America as the only remaining possessor State Party does not show a strong will to utilise its entire capacity to fulfil its commitments. Thus the move towards the post-destruction stage by this Organisation has remained pending and unachieved.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic while combating the terrorist groups, struggling to eradicate chemical terrorism, suffering from the illegal foreign military interventions and attacks has taken valuable and positive steps to complete the destruction of its chemical weapons and related facilities.



It is worth mentioning that the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) has verified the destruction of all Syrian declared chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs). The Syrian Arab Republic has submitted seventy monthly reports regarding activities on its territory related to destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs, as required by the Decision of the Thirty-Fourth Session of the Council. The Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continues to analyse all information that was collected and received during consultations with Syria and during field activities. More than twenty rounds of technical consultations between DAT and Syrian authorities have taken so far to discuss all outstanding issues and the Secretariat is considering holding the next round of consultations between the DAT and the Syrian National Authority in the framework of the Structured Dialogue. We welcome and encourage the high-level consultation process between the two sides in order to put agreeably an end to the few remaining issues.

Hence, the Syrian Arab Republic has met its obligations in accordance with the Convention and continues to cooperate with the Secretariat as well. States Parties and the Secretariat should address the repeated attempts of the terrorist groups in Syria to spread more violence towards the territories of the other States Parties and seize the opportunity to collaborate with the Syrian Arab Republic as one of the States Parties to the Convention to eradicate chemical terrorism and potential development of its threat.

Once again I draw the attention of the Council to the fact that the non-consensual Decision on “attribution”, as a politicised and untechnical issue, is inconsistent with the Convention and shall not be considered as an enforceable authorized obligation for the States Parties as well as the Secretariat. Consequently, the attribution-related activities of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and its mandate in this regard would be unacceptable.

I would like to reiterate our position on the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria to the effect that the activities of this mission should be of technical and depoliticised nature, based on validated information and reliable sources and carried out on a professional and impartial basis.

Article XI is one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention and if it is to be implemented effectively and in a non-discriminatory manner it deserves to be addressed appropriately and the budget allocated to this area should also be able to materialise the commitments enshrined in this Article. Unfortunately, the Draft Programme and Budget for 2020 does not indicate any improvement and change in this regard. Unless the industrial States Parties remove the impediments to trade and transfer of technology imposed upon developing countries in contravention of the Convention, the implementation of the core elements of Article XI will remain in limbo. Meanwhile it is a matter of regret that the Medium-Term Plan of the Organisation for 2020-2024 failed to address the main parts of Article XI.

On the proposed draft Decision to update the rules of procedure of the Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF), my delegation is of the view that the records of the meetings of this Advisory Body is reminiscent of the fact that the current rules of procedure is working well and the members of ABAF in cooperation with the Secretariat serve the States Parties aptly and in a professional manner. So there is no need to change the rules of procedure which have already revealed its efficiency especially when this change might be conducive to a complicated situation in the Council in future.

On the Draft Programme and Budget for 2020, I would like to appreciate the co-facilitators and the Secretariat for the efforts they made to hold consultations with the States Parties. However, since several delegations including my delegation have not supported the implementation of the Decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties as it is not within the framework of the Convention and has extended the mandate of the Secretariat inappropriately, I would like to express my dissatisfaction with allocation of budget to the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). Furthermore, the Secretariat has presented an omnibus 2020 Programme and Budget Decision. My delegation thanks the Secretariat for this new initiative but does not assume it a suitable solution at this juncture for the existing differences among the States Parties on budget-related issues.

The inhumane unilateral sanctions against my nation which is also extended to more than 70,000 Iranian victims of the chemical weapons by practically depriving them from access to essential medications they urgently and on daily basis need, have increased their physical and mental sufferings more than ever. Undoubtedly, it would be the moral and legal obligation of everybody to oppose such an inhumane action against the patients inflicted by chemical weapons. We expect that the States Parties in cooperation with us and the Organisation to assist the chemical weapons victims in whatever ways possible including through the Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons which at present is the only mechanism in the OPCW that may financially and solely from voluntary contributions assist the victims of chemical weapons.

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

Thank you.

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