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Iran

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Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons
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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The residential city of Sardasht was bombed and attacked with the most hazardous chemical weapons on 28 June 1987, which resulted in widespread casualties indicating that the pain has continued for the past three decades and has not yet healed.

The international human community is aware of the harmful effects of these destructive weapons on human beings and the surrounding environment. Indeed, all efforts by people and chemical victims are to prevent this catastrophe from happening ever again.

Unfortunately, the magnitude of the catastrophe that has been inflicted on the people of Sardasht city cannot be remedied, and chemical victims are hardly breathing. In this special gathering, some of the demands of the chemical victims of Sardasht are expressed.

Young people and children of victims of chemical weapons in Sardasht need the necessary capacity-building through worldwide support. High education, professional training and programs could be considered by different stakeholders including in particular by developed State Parties, the OPCW, IGOs and others, to support victims of chemical weapons in different fields including inter-alia medical, psychology, law, chemistry, engineering etc. It is highly expected that the OPCW could explore ways and means, as indicated above, to coordinate as appropriate with relevant stakeholders including developed countries to ensure that all necessary support could be rendered to these victims.

The complete destruction of all chemical and prohibited weapons of mass destruction will create psychological security and ban the governments and military groups' use of any such weapons. As long as WMD exist in the world, there is a danger of using them at any moment, and security will not be achieved on the planet.

The recent use of chemical weapons has highlighted the importance of these instruments and the role that the OPCW could play to address threats arising from the possibility of the use or threat of the use of CW. To address properly these threats a collective response in full conformity with provisions of the Convention are needed.

Since thousands of chemical warfare survivors are still suffering in my country and Halabja, we demand the “international support network for victims of chemical weapons” and “Trust Fund for the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons” to assist these victims. Due to the current sanctions against Iran, medicine and medical equipment are vital for the victims.

And now, last but not least, we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for the annual statement of Director-General Fernando Arias on behalf of the OPCW to commemorate the Iraqi chemical weapons attack on Sardasht in 1987.

Thank you for your kind attention, and I wish this statement to be made part of the final CSP record and posted on the external server and website.

**The Organization for Defending Sardasht Victims of Chemical Weapons
(ODVCW)**