



OPCW

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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
IN SUPPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS OF THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION
OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

We fully support the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela as one of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, as well as its legitimate representation in this Organisation. Let me put on record particularly our appreciation to Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah for her skilful leadership of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement and China in The Hague during the last three years.

My delegation categorically rejects the statements questioning the participation of the delegation of Venezuela in the OPCW. There is only one government that has to represent a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention in this Organisation. The Permanent Representative of Venezuela has already submitted her valid credentials to the Director-General and the credentials issued for the current delegation of Venezuela cannot be challenged on baseless grounds for narrow considerations. No one may cast a political judgement on any legitimate government issuing letter of credentials for its representatives. The United States, which has the wicked habit of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, is herewith again attempting to misuse this organisation to pursue its narrow political objectives. This is another example of the United States' endeavour to further politicise this organisation.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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