



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Twenty-Fourth Session  
25 – 29 November 2019

C-24/NAT.35  
28 November 2019  
ENGLISH only

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES  
AND EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISIONS ON DESTRUCTION-RELATED ISSUES  
(SUBITEM 9c) AT THE TWENTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE  
CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Mr Chairperson,

The destruction of chemical weapons is the main pillar of the Convention. We are of the firm belief that eradication of a complete category of weapons of mass destruction, namely, “chemical weapons”, is essential to promote and maintain chemical disarmament, as well as international and regional peace and security. It is unfortunate that the only possessor State Party of the chemical weapons stockpiles not only failed to meet the final extended deadline of April 2012 for the destruction of chemical weapons but also sought to delay the fulfilment of its obligations until 2023.

We believe that in order to prove its compliance with the Convention, the only possessor State Party should utilise its entire capacity and expedite the process of the destruction of its chemical weapons.

The destruction of the declared chemical weapons stockpile of the United States will presumably continue until the Fifth Review Conference in 2023. Therefore, this issue should remain as the highest future priority of the Organisation. It is obvious that there will be no post-destruction stage without putting an end to this process. We underline that all efforts should be made for the remaining chemical weapons to be destroyed at the earliest but not later than the deadline adopted.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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