



**Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran**

**The Hague**

**Statement by**

**H.E. Ambassador Dr. Alireza KAZEMI ABADI**

**Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the OPCW**

**at the Ninety-Third Session of the Executive Council**

**11 March, 2019**

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

**Mr. Chairperson  
Mr. Director General,  
Distinguished Delegates,**

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

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by His Excellency Mr. Jafar Huseynzada, Acting Director of the Department for Political-Military Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and China.

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

I take the opportunity to express my deep condolences for the demise of the OPCW inspector Mr. Thomas Galvin.

I would also like to thank Ambassador Gomez and Ambassador Puja the Co-facilitators for the organizational issues for their valuable efforts and consultations in the facilitation process.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Technical Secretariat has verified the destruction of all declared Chemical Weapons Production Facilities (CWPFs) in the Syrian Arab Republic. Syria has submitted its seventy-fifth monthly report regarding activities on its territory related to destruction of its chemical weapons and CWPFs. Twenty-two rounds of consultations between Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and Syrian authorities took place on October 2019 to discuss all outstanding issues and the Secretariat is considering the dates for the next round of consultations. Syria has constantly responded to the questions of DAT and had a constructive cooperation with the Technical Secretariat. We welcome and encourage the high-level consultations process to continue between the two sides in order to put an end to the few outstanding issues. The Secretariat has also conducted the sixth round of inspections on November 2019 pursuant to the Decision of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Session of the Executive Council. The Secretariat is monitoring and maintaining the remote monitoring systems installed at the sealed underground structures on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic

and the OPCW staff members are also deployed to Syria regularly. It is commendable that the Syrian Arab Republic while combating the terrorist groups, struggling to eradicate chemical terrorism and 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. Syria has fulfilled its obligations in accordance with the Convention and continues to cooperate with the Secretariat as well.

I draw the attention of the Executive Council to the fact that the non-consensual Decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties (dated 27 June 2018) on “attribution”, as a politicized 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 Technical Secretariat. As the result of the above-mentioned Decision a new mandate has been designed for the Technical Secretariat which is absolutely differentiated from its mandate defined in the Convention. Consequently, the attribution-related activities of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and its mandate in this regard would be unacceptable. The Decision has extended the mandate of the Technical Secretariat inappropriately.

I have to emphasize once again that the activities of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) in Syria should be of technical nature, depoliticized, based on validated information and reliable sources, and carried out on the basis of impartiality and professionalism.

## **Mr. Chairperson**

I would like to seize the opportunity and express my gratitude to the Director General for the briefing on the investigation into alleged breaches of confidentiality on 6 February 2020 which was unfortunately held without any discussion. My delegation raised a few questions about the report and received short answers from the Technical Secretariat. I am confident that if there were no misgivings about the Douma incident, we wouldn't have seen such a confusion among the staff of the Technical Secretariat. We suggest that for the sake of transparency in case of any divergence of technical views which may result in a lack of consensus among the investigators or inspectors the views different from the main conclusion be considered and duly reflected in the report as well through an annex or other solutions.

On the draft Decision submitted by a few Member States entitled "OPCW Advisory Body on Administrative and Financial Matters (ABAF)-Rules of Procedures" my delegation is of the view that the current rules of procedure of the ABAF is working well and there is no need to change the rules of procedure especially when this change might be conducive to a complicated situation in the Executive Council in future. However, the proposed draft Decision requires amendments to make it acceptable.

We believe there is an urgent need that the States Parties continue their discussions on different aspects of the Aerosolized Use of Central Nervous System-Acting Chemicals (CNS) and their impacts. At any case my delegation is not in a position to agree with any Decision or document that may restrict the usage of CNS chemicals and related researches for peaceful purposes such as medicine, pharmaceuticals, chemical industry, agriculture, etc.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I have to reiterate that owing to the fact that the United States of America as the only remaining possessor State Party did not have a firm intention to utilize its entire capacity to fulfil its commitments, the destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles as one of the fundamental pillars of the Convention has not yet been completed. By the same token, the move towards the post-destruction stage by this Organization has remained pending and unachieved. The full destruction of chemical weapons and the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) are the two wings of horizontal and vertical chemical non-proliferation and the main prerequisites for a successful and comprehensive chemical disarmament. We urge the only remaining possessor State Party to accelerate the process of destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles and take all-out measures to complete destruction before the scheduled timeline as

reflected in the document EC-93/NAT.2 dated 19 February 2020 to ensure that the object and purpose of the Convention is duly achieved.

The unilateral sanctions against my nation has deprived the victims of chemical weapons to have access to essential medications and have increased their physical and mental sufferings more than ever. We expect that the States Parties under the good offices of Director General to assist the chemical weapons victims in whatever ways possible.

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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