



ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
IN RESPONSE TO THE US OBJECTION TO THE VICE-CHAIRMANSHIP
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN UNDER AGENDA ITEM 11
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

I am truly shocked by the statement of the United States Ambassador in opposition to the election of one of the members of the Asia Group as a Vice-Chairperson in this Session. It is a well-established procedure in the OPCW that the Vice-Chairpersons of the Executive Council (“the Council”) are elected in the Regional Groups and introduced to the Council to be adopted therein. It is preposterous that one of the members of a Regional Group has objection to an elected member of another Regional Group, which is the largest one in this Organisation. The political interests of members of Regional Groups shall not have any impact in this process and in the routine task of the Organisation. The United States has already indicated that in supporting its narrow interests under the current administration has no respect for the international law and international organisations, much less the decisions of the Regional Groups in this Organisation. We categorically reject the irrelevant and inappropriate remarks of the distinguished delegate of the United States in this Session.

Besides, the United States of America is the main supporter of terrorist groups and activities, including state terrorism, especially in the Middle East. An obvious example of state terrorism and criminal acts of the United States is the assassination of Major General Qasem Soleimani and all his companions at the direction of its president inside the territory of Iraq, which is a gross violation of the fundamental principles of international law, charter of United Nations and International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. While the president of the United States during his election campaign clearly declared that the US administration was the founder of Daesh/ISIS and co-founder of other extremist and terrorist groups, General Soleimani had played a significant role in combatting and defeating the most dangerous terrorist groups, such as Daesh/ISIS, and other terrorist groups in different regions. The United States is not in a position to introduce itself as an anti-terrorist state but may at least be respectful to the decisions of the Regional Groups.

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