

Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) at the 94th Session of the Executive Council,

Subitem 6(f).19

Mr. Chairperson,

The position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the legality and legitimacy of the establishment of the IIT is clear and already known to all. Accordingly, there is no need to repeat it here. That is the reason we confine ourselves to what is brought to the attention and consideration of the Council.

The first report of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) is the poor result of an illegitimate body which is itself the product of the unacceptable and non-consensual Decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) adopted with less than half of the States Parties voting in favour. My delegation voted against the Decision because we were confident that it was part of a game plan that certain States Parties were to develop to achieve their own political interests in the Middle East region, in general, and in Syria, in particular. My delegation also expresses its concern that a Team which has been created inconsistent with the Chemical Weapons Convention and is the symbol of politicization and inappropriate extension of the mandate of the Technical Secretariat enjoys allocation of budget in the Organization.

As raised earlier, the first report of the IIT is not grounded on valid and reliable information and sources. The investigation of the Team has not followed the chain of custody properly and the report is technically defective. The Technical Secretariat should consider the serious concerns and comments of the Syrian authorities in response to this report and the gaps therein. We are of the view that the only reasonable

way to solve the differences is the continuing cooperation and technical discussions between the Syrian National Authority and the Technical Secretariat far from a politically-strained atmosphere and without any outside pressure.

Speaking about the Convention, its foes and friends, I would like to remind colleagues that necessity to conclude the Convention was very much realized after the wide use of chemical weapons against Iran and Iranian population by the Saddam regime in 1980s. Ironically, several number of those State Parties, which provided chemical weapons and chemical agents as well as intelligence on the places to be attacked to have 'maximum' impacts on the Iranian population, are now among the proponents of this draft decision.

Thank You