

In the name of God
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Mr. Chairman, Director-General, Excellencies, CWC Coalition Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This year, the COVID-19 pandemic precluded NGOs from attending the 25th session of the Conference of States Parties at the OPCW. The world is currently struggling with coronavirus. Health and lives of people are in danger. The WHO has given guidelines to all countries for prevention and healthcare. What are all these cautions and preventive measures for? Yes, these measures are taken to guarantee the safety of people worldwide. People have been breathing with difficulty behind their masks for the last ten months and some are suffering from respiratory complications. Research institutes worldwide are diligently working to introduce relief and vaccine for COVID-19.

We, the victims of chemical weapons from the Islamic Republic of Iran, have been suffering from respiratory, eye and skin problems and complications for about forty years. It's hard for us even to breathe. Our question for the global community is this: have you ever been concerned about respiratory, eye and skin problems of victims of chemical warfare? Have you tried to prepare their special medication? Can you ever imagine being in their place, not being able to breathe easily and live a normal life? But, we, the victims of chemical weapon are concerned about all people worldwide. We understand the pain and suffering caused by COVID-19 and the respiratory complication it causes. We are prepared to help people and furnish them with our 40-year experience of having respiratory diseases. We may quote a poem from Saadi Shirazi:

*All human beings are members of one frame,
Since all, at first, from the same essence came.
When time afflicts a limb with pain
The other limbs at rest cannot remain.
If thou feel not for other's misery
A human being is no name for thee."*

Here, we, the victims of chemical weapons, ask the world: Don't you consider medical sanctions against us in conflict with the slogan of equality of human beings and health equity? As peace ambassadors, messengers of diplomacy and sustainable peace, we are prepared to help and cooperate with the global community, and our motto is "World Free of Chemical Weapons". We wish a peaceful life for all people around the world. We are looking forward to witnessing the days when victims of chemical weapons do not lose their lives due to medical sanctions.

Thank you all for your attention and we look forward to our collaboration in this worthwhile endeavor. And please include this statement in the final CSP-25 published proceedings.