



Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran

The Hague

**Explanation of Vote by the Delegation of the Islamic republic of  
Iran on the Draft Decision on Programme and Budget of the  
OPCW for 2021 at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of  
States Parties**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

My delegation voted against the draft decision on Programme and Budget of the OPCW for 2021 on the basis of following reasons:

1-The decisions on the Programme and Budget of the OPCW used to be adopted by consensus in the past. Presenting the draft decision on such an important issue in this Organization in an omnibus format has caused divergence among the States Parties. The organization does not deserve to endure this situation for ever. A practical way to make an exit from this situation is to separate the controversial parts of the draft which are subject to objection by some of the States Parties.

2-Another source of divergence and deviation from the much-desired consensus in the Organization is the establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). This Team has been created by a politically-motivated attempt of a few States Parties in accordance with a Decision which was not also adopted by consensus to implement the so-called task of “attribution” to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons that has not been mentioned either explicitly or implicitly in the Chemical Weapons Convention. My delegation is of the view that the establishment of this Team has extended the mandate of the Technical Secretariat illegally and unnecessarily and is inconsistent with the

Convention. We do not agree with allocation of budget to the IIT in whatever form and urge the other States Parties to prevent the continuation of this trend. In this regard my delegation cannot also agree with paragraph 10 (a)(i) of the draft decision.

3- The cash surplus shall be allocated among the States Parties in accordance with the scale of assessments for the financial period to which the surplus relates. The draft decision after being adopted literally approves allocation of the cash surplus to the activities of the OPCW while it is asked by some of the States Parties to be returned to them. It is essential to respect the views of States Parties when they are asking their rights to be considered.

4-The draft decision, while recognizing the negative consequences of the late payments of the States Parties, has not considered the negative consequences of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the economy, incomes and payment of the assessed contributions of the States Parties.

5- My delegation is not satisfied that the budget of International Cooperation and assistance Programme for 2021 is reduced in comparison to the previous years. Since this is an important programme with regard to the developing Member States of the Organization, we urge the Technical Secretariat to offset this reduction in the future.

**Thank You Mr. Chairperson**