STATE OF PALESTINE

STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR RAWAN SULAIMAN PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE OF PALESTINE TO THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL ON THE LEGITIMACY OF THE REPRESENTATION OF VENEZUELA TO THE OPCW

Mr Chairperson,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Dear colleagues, members of delegations,

The Permanent Representation of the State of Palestine reaffirms its support for the OPCW and its mandate of strengthening international security through the prevention of the use of chemistry in warfare. To this end, we urge States Parties to ensure that the fulfilment of the mandate remains the focus of the work of the Organisation, and that any other irrelevant matters do not detract from the fulfilment of the mandate, including challenging the legitimacy of government representations.

My country's delegation wishes to remind this distinguished Council of the objectives for which this Convention has been established, i.e. the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction. As an international organisation, we are governed by the fundamental principle of attributed powers; the OPCW can only act within the competences that the States Parties have conferred upon it in the Convention. Hence, all States Parties must act within the legal scope of the Convention, and this distinguished Council must reject emphatically any attempt by anyone to impose their political agendas and include issues that are outside the scope of the provisions and principles enshrined in the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The State of Palestine thus reiterates its support for the current Permanent Representation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela that represents the legitimate government of Venezuela.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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