

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Alireza Kazemi Abadi of the
Islamic Republic of Iran on agenda item 6(f) entitled “Addressing
the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” at the 97th Session of
the Executive Council**

Mr. Chairperson,

The controversial, politicized and non-consensual Decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3 dated 27 June 2018) was the inappropriate product of the 4th Special Session of the Conference of States Parties. The Consequences of this Decision, adopted with less than half of the States Parties voting in favour, is clearly reminiscent of the fact that this Organization doesn’t seek any more to rely on consensus especially on vital issues since just a few States Parties being confident of winning enough votes are able to change the track of the Convention into decisions beyond the mandate of the Organization. The Decision has unacceptably tasked the Technical Secretariat with conducting attribution-oriented investigations and thereby deflecting the Organization from its technical and specialized nature and well-defined mandate.

The Establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and its reports are another consequence of the afore-mentioned Decision. The first report of the IIT was not grounded on valid and reliable information and sources and led to another unfair and unacceptable Decision in 94th Session of the Executive Council (EC-94/DEC.2 dated 9 July 2020) ignoring seven years cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Technical Secretariat. The second report

of the IIT against the Syrian Arab Republic was published in an unprofessional and improper move just one week before the 2nd part of the 25th Session of the Conference of States Parties and inserted in its annotated provisional agenda while the States Parties didn't have enough time to look into the report and study the information therein. The States Parties are not so naïve to believe that there is nothing mischievous behind such an inappropriate move.

The decision “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9 dated 21 April 2021) just like its preceding Decision (EC-94/DEC.2 dated 9 July 2020) having a similar title enjoys a politicised and unrealistic offensive approach towards the Syrian Arab Republic and ignores the constant and growing cooperation of this State Party with the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW. Undoubtedly this Decision suffers deeply from the lack of both fairness and legality.

My delegation expresses its serious concerns that in the recent years a few non-consensual decisions are overruling the Convention and the IIT is still continuing its illegal work in this Organization.