

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

RIGHT OF REPLY BY H.E. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH MANSO PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Iran's national statement raises unfounded questions about the U.S. commitment to complete destruction of the remaining U.S. chemical weapons stockpile. The United States has completed the destruction of 97 percent of its declared stockpile and is on track to meet the planned completion date of September 30, 2023. The United States has been transparent in our destruction progress and timeline and has remained on track since the date was announced in 2012.

As our most recent report to the Executive Council shows, the United States is expending an additional one billion dollars (857 million euros) to install and operate Static Detonation Chambers at both the Pueblo and Blue Grass destruction facilities to accelerate the destruction rate while ensuring continued safety to our stakeholders. The United States will spend over 13 billion dollars (11.22 billion euros) to complete destruction at the Pueblo and Blue Grass facilities. This is on top of the one billion dollars the United States spent assisting the Russian Federation in the destruction of its declared stockpile and the additional, significant resources spent assisting other States Parties. Since the submission of the report being considered, the United States informed the Technical Secretariat of the completion of destruction activities at the Blue Grass Chemical Agent-Destruction Pilot Plant Static Detonation Chamber in Kentucky, marking yet another milestone in the U.S. destruction effort.

The United States has demonstrated extraordinary transparency about plans to destroy our fully declared chemical weapons stockpile, and we continue to review all opportunities to accelerate our planned completion date. We are utilizing our technical, financial, and personnel resources to complete destruction as soon as practicable, while keeping worker, public, and environmental safety as priorities. The United States is expending an additional one billion dollars (857 million euros) to maintain a continuous presence of OPCW inspectors at both of our destruction facilities to ensure continued verified destruction of our declared stockpile despite the pandemic. The United States' commitment to the complete and verified destruction of the former U.S. chemical weapons program is beyond reproach.

I ask that this statement be designated an official document of this Council session and posted on both the external server and the public website.