



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO  
THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE  
STATES PARTIES - EXPLANATION OF VOTE ON THE DRAFT DECISION  
“ADDRESSING THE POSSESSION AND USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS BY  
THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC”**

Mr Chairperson,

Once again, another chapter of a premeditated scenario against the Syrian Arab Republic is opened in this Organisation on the basis of the illegal mandate of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) i.e., “attribution”. The “attribution” was supposed to be conducted against the Syrian Arab Republic since the terrorist groups were out of context and have never been accountable. The decision is a step towards further divergence and politicisation of the policy-making organs of the OPCW. It was clear from the beginning that the main proponents of the adopted decision in the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020)—by specifying a senseless 90 days for Syria to take heavy measures to redress the situation—had an intention to head towards the current step leading to this inappropriate decision against the Syrian Arab Republic.

It is a matter of serious concern that despite significant cooperation by the Syrian Arab Republic to destroy all its 27 chemical weapons production facilities, submit 88 monthly reports, have several rounds of meetings and dialogue with the Technical Secretariat, deliver a large amount of information, receive numerous teams of the Technical Secretariat as well as a lot of other cooperative activities done by the Syrian authorities and officials, especially during the time of the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, such an unjustified decision has been tabled in this session which would ignore sincere efforts of the Syrian Arab Republic. The approach in the decision is not constructive at all as it is unfair and causes further divergence among the States Parties. The continuing destructive and unproductive trend started from the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties on 26 June 2018, will just strengthen the terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic and make the cause of a world free of chemical weapons to be an unattainable dream. Undoubtedly, this decision is good news for the terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Mr Chairperson, my delegation voted against the draft decision because of the following reasons:

First, the decision is based on the first report of the IIT which has not been created in accordance with the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and its establishment and mandate are also not consistent with the Convention. Its report is also



based upon unreliable open sources and invalid information and the chain of custody has not been conducted appropriately in the work of the IIT.

Second, the decision is not balanced since the drafters have not considered a huge amount of efforts made by the Syrian Arab Republic in cooperation with the Technical Secretariat.

Third, the decision is highly politically motivated and may have an adverse impact on the continuing cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Technical Secretariat.

Fourth, the drafters, by neglecting many factors and aspects involved in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic as well as a long war-torn situation in that country, have placed the Syrian Arab Republic in a position to take the responsibility of incidents and activities that were not under its control and have forced the Syrian Arab Republic to fail to be able to take cooperative measures in the future.

Fifth, the legality of the decision is called into question since paragraph 36 of Article VIII and paragraph 2 of Article XII has not been appropriately applied to the decision and contrary to the above-mentioned Articles the procedure of ensuring non-compliance of the Syrian Arab Republic has not been taken into account by the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties through the recommendations of the Executive Council.

It should be also noted that paragraph 7 of the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council's decision supported by certain States Parties mentions precisely that the Executive council "decides pursuant to paragraph 36 of article VIII of the Convention, that if the Syrian Arab Republic fails to redress the situation by completing the measures set out in paragraph 5 above, to recommend to the Conference to adopt a decision at its next session which undertakes appropriate action, pursuant to paragraph 2 of Article XII of the Convention, with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic."

It is evident that this procedure has not been followed in this Conference therefore the adopted decision is illegal.

In addition, the decision suffers from the lack of, not only legality but fairness and cannot be acceptable to my delegation.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the public website and extranet server of the OPCW.

Thank You.

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