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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 IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO THE
STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO
THE OPCW**

It is intended herein to provide clarifications on the unsubstantiated allegations of the United States of America in its national statement at the Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties. In the last two decades, the United States of America has constantly abused this platform to pursue its short-sighted political interest. These allegations, as made against Member States of the OPCW, have questioned the authority of the Organisation as well as jeopardised the integrity of the Convention.

The Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) as the unique multilateral disarmament instrument with the verification regime after many years of painstaking negotiations established viable procedure and mechanisms under the OPCW in order to verify the implementation of the Convention and ensure compliance of the States Parties with their obligations under this important instrument.

The States Parties are undertaken in accordance with Article IX of the Convention to consult directly among themselves, or through the Organisation or other appropriate international procedures, including procedures within the framework of the United Nations and in accordance with its Charter, on any matter which may be raised relating to the object and purpose, or the implementation of the provisions of the Convention. This Article requires further that the States Parties are “to resolve, through exchange of information and consultation among themselves, any matters which may cause doubt about compliance, or which gives rise to concerns about a related matter which may be considered ambiguous”.

In this context, the OPCW has been established as the competent authority to verify the compliance of the States Parties with their obligations under the provisions of the Convention. This principle as recognised by the international community and reiterated many times by the Head of the Technical Secretariat, namely its Director-General, is aimed to strengthen the authority of the OPCW so that the States Parties refrain from any unsubstantiated allegations against other States Parties which would seriously jeopardise the integrity of the Convention and the credibility of the OPCW.



Against this background, it is a matter of regret that the United States of America in clear abrogation of its commitment under the Convention, has made unsubstantiated allegations against other States Parties including the Islamic Republic of Iran, questioning the authority of the OPCW as well as commitments of its members under provisions of the Convention.

Triple C mechanism under Article IX has worked out in the past, as we had the chance to clarify some of the ambiguities raised by the United States of America. However, no response so far was provided by this State with regard to the inquiry made by the Islamic Republic of Iran on the United States of America's undertakings under relevant provisions of the Convention.

The unilateral action by the United States of America against other States Parties as transpired under various pretexts including in particular within its "Annual Compliance Report" is nothing more than baseless and unsubstantiated allegations against others to serve narrow political interest. Whilst the Islamic Republic of Iran categorically rejects all these blind accusations by the United States of America, and would like to make the followings points:

During the imposed 8-year war by Saddam's regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States of America as a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council turned a blind eye to the extensive and brutal use of chemical weapons against Iranian civilians, and by so doing, shouldered responsibility for tens of thousands of Iranians who continue to suffer and perish as a result of chemical weapons use. The components of those chemical weapons came from the United States of America – a country who aided and abetted Saddam's regime in violating the 1925 Geneva Protocol and using chemical weapons against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

It should be reminded that the United States of America is the only possessor State Party that has not yet completed the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpile, while it has all of the necessary financial and technical capacities to do so. The lofty goal of 'a world free from chemical weapons' for many years has yet to be realised due the lack of political will by the United States of America.

It is very unfortunate this State Party absurdly talks about compliance, whilst not having met the final deadline for the destruction of its chemical weapons arsenals by 29 April 2012, but also after nearly a decade, is the only possessor State Party who has a huge stockpile of chemical weapons as documented by the Technical Secretariat.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has strictly observed all its obligations under various provision of the Convention including through a close cooperation with the Technical Secretariat. To this end, it should be noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran's compliance with its obligations under the Convention has been verified by the OPCW's inspection teams. Furthermore, Islamic Republic of Iran's exemplary cooperation with the Technical Secretariat is constantly reaffirmed in various reports of the OPCW.

As reaffirmed by various Review Conferences, national implementation measures play an essential role in the realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention. To this end, the Islamic Republic of Iran has already taken a number of measures to implement its commitment under Article VII. In this regard, it should be noted that according to various relevant reports of the OPCW on the implementation of Article VII, the Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled all its obligations under this Article.

In line with the provision of the Convention, the Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled its obligation and completely declared its RCAs to the OPCW.

The Islamic Republic of Iran as the main victim of chemical weapons in the contemporary era will spare no effort to work with the international community in strengthening the Convention in its entirety towards a world free of chemical weapons and the peaceful use of chemistry for the prosperity of humankind.

In conclusion, it should be emphasised once more that the credibility of the OPCW shall not be compromised in the light of unilateral actions by a certain State. To this end, States Parties should work together to explore ways and means to ensure that the OPCW will continue to be the competent authority to verify the compliance of States Parties; and for the rights of the States Parties under this instrument to be secured all times.

The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests this statement to be distributed as an official document of Twenty-Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted in the external server of the OPCW.

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