

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ALIREZA KAZEMI ABADI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
TO THE OPCW AT THE 101st SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(c)

Mr. Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran, once again, reaffirms the importance of preserving the authority and integrity of the Convention and the OPCW. It indeed requires the OPCW and its teams to work impartially, independently, and professionally to ensure full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. These are also of extreme importance with regard to the case of Syria.

As we have said in different occasions, unfortunately, this issue has been politicized, resulting in undermining the Convention's authority and its effective implementation, as well as the OPCW's credibility, which precludes this Organisation to fulfil its well-defined mandate, in accordance with the Convention.

My delegation notes with appreciation that since the Syrian Arab Republic acceded to the Convention and against all the difficulties in its territory, there has been considerable progress in the Syrian issue and a constructive cooperation has been established between parties so far. In addition, my delegation has noticed that this process has led to tangible progress and the closure of some outstanding issues. Thus, a continued cooperative approach would enable the parties to resolve all outstanding issues.

Mr. Chairperson,

As we heard repeatedly, Syria welcomes the OPCW's deployment of the DAT for the twenty-fifth round of consultations. Similarly, it welcomes all members of the team and has expressed willingness to grant them the necessary visas immediately,

except for one member of the team on whom Syria has reservations. While recognizing that Syria is exercising its sovereign rights and this is not unprecedented, my delegation invites both sides to solve the issue with good faith and according to the previous practice. There seems no legitimate reason to suspend a mission as a whole, where only a member of the team is unable to take part in the mission and can be replaced.

We are of the view that a high-level meeting could be an opportunity to address the concerns relating to working methods, the terms of reference, the future plans of FFM, and the other pertinent matters. Thus, we encourage the parties to hold the meeting as soon as possible.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.