



OPCW

Executive Council

101st Session
4 – 6 October 2022

EC-101/NAT.23
4 October 2022
ENGLISH only

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(G)**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Technical Secretariat for convening the meeting to update the States Parties of the status of the Syrian issue on 28 September 2022, before the 101st Session of the Executive Council.

My delegation has time and again expressed its serious concerns that in recent years, a few non-consensual decisions are overruling the Chemical Weapons Convention, leading to more polarisation and politicisation of this august body. Undoubtedly, the lack of consensus and common understanding among States Parties on critical and cross-cutting issues precludes the Organisation from achieving the noble goal of the Convention: a world free of chemical weapons, which is its *raison d'être*.

The decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use” (C-SS-4/DEC.3, dated 27 June 2018) is an example of this and was an inappropriate result of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties. The consequences of this decision, adopted with only 82 votes in favour, is clearly reminiscent of the fact that this Organisation is straying far from its traditional consensus, especially on substantive issues. The decision has unacceptably tasked the Technical Secretariat with conducting attribution-oriented investigations and thereby deflecting the Organisation from its technical and specialised nature and well-defined mandate.

The establishment of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) and its reports are another consequence of the aforementioned decision. The establishment of this Team is not only beyond the scope of the Convention, but also is a blatant violation of its provisions. Further, this mechanism—which was created to serve as a tool to exert pressure on Syria—has exacerbated the politicisation and polarisation of the Organisation.

Similarly to the prior decision, the decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021) ignores the cooperation of this State Party with the Technical Secretariat since its accession to the Convention.



Last but not least, the Islamic republic of Iran, as a major victim of the most systematic use of chemical weapons in contemporary history, once again condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

--- 0 ---