



OPCW

Executive Council

102nd Session
14 – 17 March 2023

EC-102/NAT.12
15 March 2023
ENGLISH only

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO
THE OPCW AT THE 102ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

Having been the only recent victim of large-scale, systematic and frequent use of chemical weapons during the imposed war by Saddam's regime, the Islamic Republic of Iran strongly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances, and strongly believes that those responsible for the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.

As we have said on different occasions, while any investigation must be impartial, credible and objective and comply with the Convention's requirements and procedures, this issue has unfortunately been politicised, resulting in undermining the Convention's authority and its effective implementation, as well as the OPCW's credibility, which precludes this Organisation in fulfilling 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 despite of all the difficulties on its territory, there has been considerable progress on the Syrian issue, and constructive cooperation has been established between the 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.

To this end, as we heard repeatedly, Syria welcomes the OPCW's deployment of the Declaration Assessment Team for the twenty-fifth round of consultations. In this vein, my delegation firmly believes that cooperation between both sides is still continuing, and the only way to remove the ambiguities is through the continuing cooperation between the Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic, and to avoid accusations and false allegations against a State Party and a Member State of the OPCW.

I request that this statement be posted as an official document of this session on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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