

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**  
**AT THE 103<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7(b)**

**Mr Chairperson,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the main victim of chemical weapons in contemporary history, has been waiting for this day for a long time. Iran has followed the destruction process of the US chemical weapons closely and with great interest. In this regard, my delegation commends the Technical Secretariat for its efforts in this process during the past three decades. We are happy to see that with the destruction of the US chemical weapons we have moved one step ahead towards the goal of having a world free of chemical weapons. This should have happened 16 years ago, namely 10 years after the entering into force of the convention.

However, the goal will not be reached as far as the concerns for undeclared chemical weapons stockpiles of the non-parties to the Convention still remain. It is now the time for the Organization to more focus on the universality of the Convention and use all available tools to compel non-parties to the convention, particularly those like the Israeli regime which possess chemical weapons, to accede to the convention without further delay or precondition. Moreover, due to the fact that the universality of the Convention has not yet been reached, it is necessary for the Organization to take all measures to retain its knowledge and expertise related to the destruction and verification of chemical destruction facilities for future employment.

I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session and posted on the OPCW's public website and catalyst portal.

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**