

**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 103<sup>rd</sup> SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Mr Chairperson,**

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you, your Excellency Ambassador Lucian Fatu on assuming the chairmanship of the Executive Council and assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation in discharging your duties. I would also like to thank Director-General Fernando Arias for his report delivered at this session.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by Azerbaijan, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

**Mr Chairperson,**

It is unfortunate that the Fifth Review Conference concluded without an outcome document. This failure demonstrates that success and progress are contingent on all States Parties, and they have to fully and openly participate in transparent, inclusive and apolitical negotiations on the basis of the well-established tradition of consensus within the framework of the Convention to guarantee a workable final outcome. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as the main victim of chemical weapons in contemporary history, encourages the States Parties to avoid any politicisation of the Organisation and put further efforts to achieve the object and purpose of the Convention, in all of its aspects.

Despite the fact that the achievements of the Organisation in different areas, particularly in the verification system have earned the recognition of the international community over the past 26 years, we should not lose sight of the fact that other pillars particularly Articles X and XI have not yet been implemented on par and to the extent expected.

The Convention also assures States Parties that their economic and technological development for peaceful purposes will not be hampered by implementing the obligations under the Convention. Failure to fulfil this assurance by not removing impediments to the economic and technological development of States Parties would irreparably impair the integrity of the Convention. The Organization should put the promotion of trade and international cooperation in the peaceful application of chemistry on top of its agenda.

**Mr Chairperson,**

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly rejects discriminatory restrictions, particularly the imposition of unilateral sanctions against the Member States of this Organisation. It is noteworthy that tens of thousands of victims of chemical weapons in Iran are now under unlawful and inhumane unilateral sanctions, while they are in urgent needs of special medication and treatment.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches paramount importance to the universality of the Convention, so that no one remains outside the Convention and no chemical activity remains outside its verification system. To this end, my delegation invites States Parties to take every opportunity at bilateral, regional, and international levels, to implement the Action Plan on Universality and deploy their best efforts to expedite the accession of all non-parties to the Convention.

On the issues related to the Syrian Arab Republic, Iran supports the continuation of the cooperation between Syria and the OPCW within a mutually agreed framework of collaboration. My delegation welcomes the meetings between Syria and the Technical Secretariat in Beirut (22 & 23 June 2023) and firmly believes that cooperation and dialogue have proven to be the best way to resolve the remaining technical issues.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the inauguration of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology and is of the view that the Centre will be an asset to the Technical Secretariat in fulfilling its well-defined mandate in accordance with the Convention, as well as enhancing international cooperation and assistance among States Parties, in order to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. To this end, we firmly believe that the modalities, mandate, operational needs, and budgetary allocation for the Centre should be submitted for approval of States Parties through the PMOs, and the advantage of the Centre, including its services and capacity building programs in the field of research, analysis and training should only be provided to States Parties. Extending such benefits to non-parties will adversely deprive the Organisation of incentives to encourage them to adhere to the convention.

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

**Thank you, Mr Chairperson.**