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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE OPCW AT THE FIFTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO REVIEW THE OPERATION OF THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(C)(X)

Mr Chairperson,

Article XI has played a pivotal role in marshalling universal support for the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of this article is fundamental to achieving the object and purpose of the Convention. It ensures the inalienable rights of States Parties to economic and technological development, and the implementation of the Convention in a manner that avoids hampering the international exchange of information, technology, material, and equipment for peaceful purposes.

The States Parties are accordingly expected to promote international cooperation, and not to impose any restrictions, in particular unilateral sanctions, which would restrict trade and the development of scientific and technological knowledge for industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, and other peaceful purposes. Despite the efforts made towards this end, it is disappointing to witness the persistent non-compliance of certain States Parties with their obligations, which affects the long-term viability of the Convention.

While welcoming relevant efforts and developments, including the establishment of the OPCW Centre for Chemistry and Technology and capacity-building programmes by the Technical Secretariat, which can enhance international cooperation and assistance, my delegation underlines the necessity of developing an Action Plan to address gaps and obstacles, particularly restrictive measures on exports, and the adoption of concrete steps for the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention.

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.

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