

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR HADI FARAJVAND
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AT THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Mr. Chairperson,

Mr. Director-General,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate Ambassador Thomas Sheib of Germany on assuming the position of Chairperson of the Executive Council, and assure him of the support and cooperation of my delegation.

I also express my appreciation to the Director General, Fernando Arias and the Technical secretariat for preparing this Meeting.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 13 June 2025, the criminal regime of Israel launched an unprovoked and premeditated act of aggression and terrorism against the Islamic Republic of Iran, which targeted residential neighbourhoods, civil infrastructure, hospitals, factories, nuclear facilities, as well as chemical and petrochemical industries, resulting in the killing and maiming of thousands of civilians, including women, children and infants, as well as military and government officials, scientists and academic figures, some alongside members of their families within the sanctity of their homes.

More than nine hundred civilians have lost their lives, and over five thousand have been injured in the Israeli attacks. Among the victims were students, artists, athletes, and citizens who never imagined they could be targeted in an unjust and inhumane war. They are not numbers, but human beings, each with a unique story, a deep love for life, remarkable achievements, and great aspirations. They have families, relatives, and friends who are struck with awe and grief. This is the “dirty work” the Israeli regime carried out with great pleasure for its criminal allies.

This act of aggression and terrorism represents a continuation of the regime’s longstanding pattern of barbarism and disregard for international law across the region, intensified and bolstered since October 2023 by the support of its allies. Such backing has allowed the regime to persist in committing genocide and war crimes in Palestine and Lebanon, including the use of chemical weapons, all in defiance of widespread condemnation and prosecution by international organisations and tribunals.

Mr. Chairperson,

Three days ago, the Iranian people commemorated the 38th anniversary of the chemical bombing of Sardasht. That heinous attack claimed the lives of more than one hundred civilians and injured over eight thousand others. Those who once enabled Saddam’s regime to perpetrate such atrocities are now supporting Israel in committing genocide and crimes against humanity. The proud Iranian nation will neither forget nor forgive those who permitted aggression, terrorism, and war crimes in hope for its collapse.

Mr. Chairperson,

The accession of the United States to the aggression against the Islamic Republic of Iran clearly demonstrates that it was premediated and initiated with U.S. support, even as diplomatic negotiations were ongoing. This devious scheme was a betrayal to diplomacy and a severe blow to international law and rule-based order. It was also shameful and alarming that the unstable “Daddy” was congratulated for this blatant lawlessness.

The United States and Israel attacked peaceful nuclear facilities, which were operating under full safeguards of the IAEA. Their reckless attacks have posed a grave risk of widespread radioactive and chemical contamination, endangering human health and the environment, even beyond national borders.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Israeli regime has also targeted industrial complexes. It is particularly alarming that the Quality Control and Synthesis laboratory (QCSL), which is a Schedule 1 facility under the verification of OPCW, is located in the immediate vicinity of the Complex and may have been a target of attacks. Any release of chemicals would lead to a disaster across the vast area.

I would like to further note that the South Pars gas field, Shahr-e-Rey refinery, Najafabad refinery, and Fajr-e-Jam refinery were other targets of the Israeli attacks, which placed densely populated areas at significant risk of exposure to chemicals.

Mr. Chairperson,

The inaction of international community in response to such gross violations by the Israeli regime would undermine the rule of law and allow further egregious crimes. The international organisations bear a particular responsibility in upholding the principles and norms of international law.

My delegation accordingly expects all members of the Executive Council and the Organisation to strongly condemn the attacks by the Israeli regime against the chemical and petrochemical sites and facilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, taking into account the exclusive responsibility of the Organisation in verification of chemical activities and its increasing role in promotion of chemical safety and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

While the convention prohibits the use of chemical weapons and even riot control agents as methods of warfare, it does not explicitly ban attacks on chemical facilities aimed at harming civilians. In particular, targeting chemical installations near cities and residential areas can result in consequences far more destructive than the use of chemical weapons. This poses a serious threat to the purpose and objectives of the Convention. It is imperative to take decisive steps to establish a robust norm and enforce binding rules to prohibit and criminalize attacks on chemical facilities in any future conflict. Addressing this issue should be a top priority for the Organization and the international community.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Israeli regime has not acceded to any WMD disarmament and non-proliferation treaty, including CWC. It is the sole possessor of all WMDs in the region and the only obstacle to establishing a WMD-free zone in the Middle East. The regime's recent barbaric war crimes once again remind us of the threats posed by its WMD arsenal and the corresponding obligation of the international community.

States Parties to the CWC shall accordingly intensify their efforts to promote the universalization of the Convention. The Israeli regime must be reminded that the international ban on the use of chemical weapons leaves no justification for maintaining such weapons and their production facilities. It is an immense threat to international peace and security, particularly in the hands of a genocidal regime. The Israeli regime must bear the consequences of staying outside of the Convention. Those who have influence over the regime, bear a particular responsibility in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

Finally, I would like to express our deep appreciation for the statements of solidarity and support, issued by different groups of states, including Non-Aligned Movement, Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, Group of Friends in Defence of the Charter of the United Nations, Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, and BRICS. We commend widespread condemnation of the Israeli-American aggressions and expression of sympathy for those who lost their lives in the heinous attacks.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and publish it on the external server and the website of the OPCW.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.