

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF
THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN
AT THE SIXTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,

The participation of the representative of a regime that is currently perpetrating grave human rights violations in Gaza, fueling instability across the Middle East, consistently breaching international norms and obligations, developing all types of weapons of mass destruction, in particular chemical weapons and use in Gaza and Lebanon, Ignoring repeated requests from member states to ratify the Convention and destruction of its chemical weapons, is a blatant insult that undermines the credibility and reputation of this Organization.

The continued misuse of international platforms, in particular this session of the EC, by the Israeli regime to deflect attention from its atrocities and to justify its conduct remains a matter of deep concern.

I would like to reiterate the principled position of my delegation to the effect that the Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognize the regime of Israel as a State and its attendance at the Sixty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council of the OPCW shall not be construed as the recognition of this regime by my delegation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson