



## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR NICOLE SHAMPAINE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AT THE SIXTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Director General,  
Distinguished Ambassadors and Delegates,

The past few weeks have seen an incredible series of events unfold. There are certainly many questions and unknowns before us. However, I find myself asking, “Why are we here today?” The Iranian delegation has called for this meeting to address a supposed “grave violation of international chemical safety and security norms.” We reject the premise and underscore that this is not the purpose of the Executive Council, nor do we see anything in Iran’s note verbale that is within the purview of the OPCW to address. The Iranian delegation has called this meeting under a tenuous pretext at best, but since Iran specifically mentioned the Shahid Meisami Group, I would like to highlight longstanding concerns with this entity and Iran’s non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention.

First, the United States continues to assess that Iran is in violation of the Convention, not only for failing to fulfill its declaration obligations, but also for its development of pharmaceutical based agents for offensive purposes as part of an active chemical weapons program. In 2018, the

United States began raising serious concerns that Iran was pursuing pharmaceutical-based agents for offensive purposes. In 2024, the United States publicly assessed that Iran maintains a chemical weapons program that includes development of such agents in violation of the Convention, as detailed in leaked Iranian documents. These documents highlight an Iranian military university's development of grenades meant to disseminate medetomidine, an anesthetic that is a central nervous system-acting chemical. These documents confirmed our prior concerns about Iran's efforts to weaponize such chemicals.

Further, on December 3, 2020, the United States—under President Trump's leadership—designated the Shahid Meisami Group, and its head Mehran Babri, noting its role in testing and producing chemical agents and optimizing them for effectiveness and toxicity for use as so-called incapacitating agents. These efforts were at the request and direction of the Iranian Organization of Defensive Innovation and Research, also known as SPND. The United States sanctioned SPND in 2014 for its connections to the Iranian regime's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

As you can see, Iran has a sordid track record of failing to fulfill its obligations under the CWC. Although we do not support the premise on which Iran has called this meeting of the Executive Council, I am grateful for the opportunity to remind the Council of Iran's failure to comply with the Convention.

Finally, as Iran acknowledged, the Convention does not cover issues such as those Iran described, and the OPCW should not create working groups on issues outside of its purview.