



## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

### **STATEMENT AT THE THIRTIETH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES AGENDA ITEM 12 – ELECTION OF MEMBER STATES TO MEMBERSHIP IN THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The United States must express its profound concern regarding this body's willingness to elect the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Executive Council (EC). Iran's presence on the EC degrades the integrity of this organization and the Chemical Weapons Convention alike.

The United States has repeatedly highlighted Iran's longstanding non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) – including for its failure to meet its declaration obligations under Article III, as well as its continued development of pharmaceutical-based agents for offensive purposes as part of an ongoing chemical weapons program in violation of Article I. These conclusions are reflected in public statements and the United States' annual report to Congress on compliance with the CWC.

Iran's CWC non-compliance is of special concern in view of its historic and ongoing efforts to deliberately destabilize the broader Middle East. Iran repeatedly worked to shield the Assad regime from accountability for its horrific use of chemical weapons by amplifying the Assad regime's lies and opposing action in this Organization. Today, Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and the most significant challenge to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The United States calls on all States Parties to oppose Iran's continuing membership on the Executive Council. To reward a state in violation of the

Convention with a seat at the very table where critical matters for this Organization are decided is to diminish the Convention's own relevance – and to, by extension, create an environment wholly permissive of non-compliance.

We are also deeply concerned that the current process for electing members to the Executive Council fails to provide adequate safeguards against the election of states that are in violation of the Convention. As we further deliberate on the rules and procedures related to elections going forward, we urge States Parties to consider seriously the need for reform to ensure that the Executive Council is not used as a platform for those who would weaken the Convention and the Organization.

For these reasons, the United States must disassociate itself from consensus on Iran's election to the Executive Council. We request that the report of the meeting reflects our disassociation. We will continue to hold Iran to account for its violations of the Convention and will work with all States Parties committed to upholding the integrity of the OPCW.

Thank you.