



**OPCW**

**Conference of the States Parties**

Nineteenth Session  
1 – 5 December 2014

C-19/NAT.27  
1 December 2014  
ENGLISH only

**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR HADI FARAJVAND, SECRETARY OF THE NATIONAL  
AUTHORITY OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AT THE  
NINETEENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES**

Madam Chairperson,

Please allow me to begin by congratulating you on your well-deserved election as the Chairperson of this Conference. I am confident that under your able leadership, this Conference will be steered to a successful conclusion. I also wish to express my appreciation to Ambassador Sa'ad Abdul Majeed Ibrahim Al-Ali, for all his efforts as the Chairperson of the Eighteenth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

I wish to extend my delegation's appreciation to the Director-General and his colleagues in the Technical Secretariat for their efforts and excellent arrangements.

I would also like to associate myself with the statement delivered by H. E. Dr Alireza Jahangiri, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the OPCW, on behalf of the Member States of the Non-Aligned Movement that are States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention and China.

Madam Chairperson,  
Distinguished Director-General,  
Distinguished delegates,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Existence of chemical weapons poses a great threat to the international peace and security and undermines the integrity and credibility of the Convention. The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasises that complete destruction of all categories of chemical weapons stockpiles continues to remain the most essential for realisation of the object and purpose of the Convention and has top priority for the Organisation.

Based on the Director-General's report at the Sixty-Eighth Session of the Executive Council, as well as the destruction plans submitted by the concerned States Parties, we remain seriously concerned that those possessor States have not complied with this obligation of the Convention, thus endangering its credibility and integrity. We therefore strongly call upon those possessor States to strictly abide by their fundamental obligations under the Convention and the relevant decisions of the policy-making organs (PMOs), to completely destroy their chemical weapons under the verification regime of the Convention at the earliest.



The active participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international negotiations leading to the successful conclusion of the Convention and thereafter development and promotion of the Organisation is rooted in the Islamic thought (Doctrine) which prohibited the use of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction, and a very bitter experience in our recent history; the horrible use of different kinds of chemical weapons by the Saddam regime against the Iranian military and civilian population which victimised more than 100,000 peoples.

While the Organisation works towards a world free of chemical weapons, we shall not forget to work to remedy the chemical weapons victims' situation. My delegation would like to express our appreciation to the States Parties and the Director-General for their efforts and goodwill to sympathise with the victims of chemical weapons by adopting a decision to establish the International Support Network for Victims and contributions to the voluntary trust fund of the network. The States Parties also are requested to contribute to the trust fund of the network to show their solidarity with the victims of chemical weapons and to enhance the humanitarian aims of the Network.

Regrettably, the international community recently has witnessed the use of toxic chemicals by terrorist groups in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq. The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a main victim of the contemporary use of chemical weapons, firmly believes that the use of chemical weapons is contrary to the legal norms and standards of the international community and the perpetrators and those who assisted them, to acquire such capabilities, must be held accountable. Hence, I reiterate the call by the international community upon all countries to refrain from providing any financial, logistical and military support to these terrorist groups and make very efforts to prevent them from accessing any kind of toxic chemical substances.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supported the Syrian Arab Republic's accession to the Convention and shared its experiences with Syria to implement its obligations under the Convention. In this regard, the National Authority of the Islamic Republic of Iran established a close cooperation with the National Authority of the Syrian Arab Republic, and organised training courses for the Syrian experts in Tehran and Damascus for those involved in implementation of the Convention and agreed to continue this cooperation with the support of the Technical Secretariat in the framework of the mentorship programme of the OPCW.

I hereby congratulate the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic for its determination and achievement to eliminate its chemical weapons. I appreciate the full cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic that has made this significant achievement possible. Undoubtedly, the decisions taken by the Policy-Making Organs of the organisation related to the Syrian chemical weapons, was due to the extraordinary character of the situation in Syria. The Syrian Arab Republic in spite of its difficult security situation has shown its commitment to meet its obligations in a cooperative and transparent manner. It is high time to shift to ordinary mode on this issue and focus our attention to other important issues of our work; needless to say, to the importance of the elimination of the existing chemical weapons stockpiles and the ongoing efforts with other possessor States Parties which Syria, as a State Party to the Convention, shall be included in and dealt with in the same manner.

Article XI is one of the major pillars of the Convention. The aim of this article is to promote free trade of chemicals and equipment among States Parties. Needless to say that agreement on this Article has been one of the primary motives for developing countries to join the Convention. Unfortunately, almost 17 years after entry into force of the Convention and in

spite of the provisions of Article XI and the related decisions by the Conference of the States Parties, the objective of the Convention in this field have not been met. My delegation expresses the firm conviction that a plan of action is needed to ensure the effective implementation of Article XI. We look forward to the continuation of Article XI consultations with a view to further deliberate the presented facilitator informal document as soon as possible for negotiations by delegations. Allocation of adequate financial and human resources by the Technical Secretariat, adopting necessary actions or decisions to implement the relevant recommendations of the Third Review Conference, promotion of international cooperation and removal of discriminatory restrictions and parallel export control regimes are essential for full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

Universal adherence to the Convention is a milestone to achieve its fundamental objective and significantly contributes to the international peace and security. The objectives of the Convention will not be fully realised as long as there remains even a single State not Party that could possess or acquire chemical weapons. This session of the Conference has to send a clear message to those who are still staying outside the Convention that the international community will not tolerate their disrespect to the Convention anymore and they should accede to it without any further delay. In our region, the Israeli's weapons of mass destruction arsenals are the main source of concern and pose a great threat to the regional and international peace and security. Given the accession of the Syrian Arab Republic to the Convention, there is no justification for others to stay out of disarmament treaties including the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Article X is a unique legal framework for promotion of collective security through global joint efforts and is a major guarantee for the States Parties, particularly developing countries that they are assisted to acquire capabilities to effectively respond to any chemical weapons attack. The readiness of the Organisation to deliver assistance, especially with regard to the needs of the victims of chemical weapons is of utmost importance as stipulated in various documents adopted by policy-making organs. We should not forget that the state of readiness of the Organisation could not be achieved without reliable resources being made available to the Organisation by the States Parties.

In closing, Madam Chairperson, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the Nineteenth Session of the Conference.

Thank you.

- - - 0 - - -