

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE ISLAMIC
REPUBLIC OF IRAN AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

UNDER AGENDA ITEM _6(c)

Mr. Chairman,

As a consistent position, the Islamic Republic of Iran firmly condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances. It remains our consistent policy to encourage all relevant parties to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat fully and to refrain from politicizing technical matters. New developments must not serve as a pretext for political approaches; rather, a purely technical approach remains the most effective and credible means of addressing the Syrian chemical dossier within the Organization.

All activities of the Technical Secretariat — not only regarding the Syrian chemical dossier but in all cases — must be conducted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and its Verification Annex.

Article VIII, paragraph 31 of the Convention outlines the powers and functions of the Executive Council, and paragraph 37, Section 5 of the Verification Annex clearly stipulates that the destruction of all chemical weapons facilities must be approved by the Council. Paragraph 56 of Part IV(A) of the Verification Annex provides further endorsement of the two aforementioned provisions. Therefore, the final authority to adopt decisions concerning destruction or verification plans rests with the Executive Council.

The Islamic Republic of Iran holds the view that the draft decisions must fully conform to the Convention in order to safeguard the credibility and integrity of the Organization. We believe that certain amendments and improvements to the draft decision are necessary. Moreover, we categorically oppose any decision that refers to matters beyond the scope of the Convention, including the establishment or operation of the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) in any form.

In considering the current draft decision, our delegation has taken into account both the principles of the Convention and the lessons of past practice. We are firmly of the view that, as in the past, our future actions must continue to adhere strictly to the provisions of the Convention. Any departure from this framework would create a dangerous precedent that could be exploited to the detriment of the Convention and its objectives.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we request that the action on the draft decision be postponed to the next EC session.

I kindly request that this statement be posted as an official document of this session on the OPCW Catalyst and public website.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.