



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

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**ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN  
TO THE OPCW AT THE EIGHTIETH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General for his comprehensive statement, which is a reflection of the extensive efforts he and the Technical Secretariat have made since the last session of the Executive Council.

Allow me to comment on some of the agenda items of the current session of the Executive Council;

The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly believes that the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons is one of the fundamental objectives of the OPCW and in this regard urges all possessor States Parties to make every effort to implement their commitments and extend all possible cooperation to the OPCW.

I would also like to emphasise that the universality of the Convention is essential in achieving its object and purpose. We welcome the accession of new States, Myanmar and Angola, to the Chemical Weapons Convention, bringing Member States to 192 and hope that the few remaining countries outside the Convention will join the Convention soon. In fact for achieving one of the main objectives of the OPCW, universal membership in the Convention, the Technical Secretariat should undertake tangible and specific actions to bring remaining states to the world's campaign against chemical weapons.

We welcome discussions regarding the future of the OPCW and commend steps and initiatives taken by the Technical Secretariat and appreciate the Director-General's retreat programme last week. In this regard I would like to emphasise that we need a special mechanism such as a time bounded working group, with the aim of using the past experiences to formulate a document regarding the future priorities of the OPCW in consultation with the States Parties.

My delegation welcomes the substantive progress achieved in the destruction process of the Syrian production facilities in cooperation with the government of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Regarding the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), we look forward to receiving a professional, impartial report from the Mission. In this process, it is essential that the FFM respects the



sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. We also request the FFM to take into consideration the observations and shortcomings of the work of the previous FFM.

In relation to the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), my delegation believes that the OPCW and the Executive Council should play their important role in this regard. As the FFM is the main information source for the JIM, we request the Director-General to transfer to the JIM the views and concerns expressed in the discussion of the Executive Council on the previous FFM reports.

My delegation expects the JIM to fulfill its mandate in a professional, objective and impartial manner. In this regard, we insist on the prerequisite of the equitable geographical distribution of the JIM staff.

We express our serious concerns regarding the reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals by non-State actors in particular ISIS in the Middle East, and request the Technical Secretariat to consider and investigate the issue in coordination with the concerned States Parties and inform the Executive Council accordingly.

Turning to other issues, my delegation believes that well-organised efforts with adequate resources for implementation of the provisions of Article X and achievement of a consistent status of readiness by the Organisation for responding to requests for assistance, particularly with regard to the needs of victims of chemical weapons, are crucial for the realisation of the objectives of the Convention. Full implementation of this article can only be reached through maintaining the highest possible standards of coordination and readiness for delivery of assistance by the Organisation and States Parties as well.

We encourage all States Parties to contribute to the Fund of the Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons to show their solidarity with the victims and to enhance the humanitarian aims of the network. My delegation would like to remind you that the International Centre for Treatment of Victims of Chemical Weapons in Tehran has been made available to the OPCW through the agreement which was been concluded with the Organisation within the context of the submission by the Islamic Republic of Iran under paragraph 7 of Article X of the Convention.

Full implementation of the provisions of the Convention regarding promotion of international cooperation and assistance is a common commitment of all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat. In fact Article XI which articulates all critical areas of cooperation regarding facilitating the fullest possible exchange of chemicals, equipment and technical information in the field of chemistry for peaceful purposes will generate stronger support for the overall goals of the Convention. International cooperation from another point of view is one of the important issues in order to enhance national implementation and to promote the capacity building of States Parties.

My delegation supports and appreciates recent efforts made by the Technical Secretariat in the field of Article XI based on States Parties proposals including NAM CWC States Parties and China proposal on the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI and looks forward to more consultation between the Technical Secretariat and States Parties. We also welcome the appointment of the new facilitator for this Article.

My delegation supports the establishment of the Advisory Board on Education and Outreach as a useful mechanism in promoting educational and training objectives of the Organisation. We expect this new body to play an important role in public awareness and preventing re-emergence of the use of chemical weapons through creating appropriate infrastructures at national and regional levels. We are of the view that the composition of this body should be based on equal geographical distribution.

In closing, I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and be posted on both the external server and the public website.

Thank you.

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