



**Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
The Hague**

Statement by

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**The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Netherlands and
Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the OPCW
at the Eighty-Second Session of the Executive Council
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In the Name of God

Madam Chairperson,

First of all, please let me welcome you as the Chairperson of the Executive Council. I am sure that this session will be successfully conducted under your able leadership and experienced diplomatic skills.

My delegation joins others in thanking the Director-General for his comprehensive opening remarks and wishes to commend him and the Technical Secretariat for the extensive work done.

Madam Chairperson,

The destruction of chemical weapons stockpiles is the most important commitment of the States Parties which has still not been fulfilled by some possessor States Parties. We urge and call on all possessor States to strictly comply with the Convention and take all necessary measures to ensure the total destruction of their chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons, as specified by the provisions of the Convention.

Given the concerns expressed by the Director-General, the Executive Council and the States Parties that the possessors States have not been able to meet the final extended deadline of the destruction of chemical weapons; we believe that the progress reports should be reviewed in a continuous manner and through any possible options, such as holding an extra Meeting.

Madam Chairperson,

I would also like to underline the importance of universality of the Convention as an utmost priority for all of us. In this respect, my delegation encourages the few remaining outsiders to join the Convention as soon as possible without any precondition. In this regard, I would like to express my appreciation and support all efforts made by the Director General to achieve this very important objective.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation would like to emphasize the importance of the full implementation of Article XI, which is not only important per se, but also should be considered as equally important as other Articles of the Convention.

We look forward to holding the Review and Evaluation Workshop to identify gaps and obstacles for paving the way for an integrated, systematic and long-term and constructive approach to the full and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI.

The Islamic Republic of Iran attaches great importance to the Organisation and its future priorities, however we should bear in mind that any changes in the structure and activities of the Organisation shall not lead to its diversion from the main core objective, namely disarmament. We are of the view that discussion on the future of the Organization must be an inclusive, transparent and non-discriminatory process, so to be able to reflect the interests and concerns of all States Parties.

Madam Chairperson,

We are deeply concerned about reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals in terrorist attacks and believe that the prevention of use of toxic chemicals as weapon by terrorist groups should be one of our priorities. In this regard, my delegation recognises with appreciation the important efforts done by the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism and its Sub-Working Group on Non-State Actors. We are ready to continue our efforts at regional and international levels to combat this dangerous phenomenon.

We expect that the Open-Ended Working Group on Terrorism should work within the framework of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

Considering Libyan situation, we welcome the decision adopted by the Fifty-First Meeting of the Executive Council on destruction of the remaining

chemical stockpiles in Libya to prevent the possibility of them falling into the hands of terrorist groups. In this regard we believe more actions, within the framework of the Convention, should be taken by the Technical Secretariat in close cooperation with the Government of Libya to destroy remaining chemical weapons stockpiles.

Madam Chairperson,

Needless to say, how important the provisions of Article X of the Convention are to us having the largest number of chemical weapons victims during the eight-year imposed war on the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Saddam's regime. As long as the Organization works towards a world free of chemical weapons, it shall not forget to work to remedy the chemical weapons victims' situation. In this regard, States Parties are requested to take the following practical steps:

- Facilitating and making materials and equipment-related assistance available to other States Parties to assist and support the victims of chemical weapons, with no undue restrictions, as recommended by the Third Review Conference.
- Contributing to the Voluntary Trust Fund of the International Support Network for Victims of Chemical Weapons to show their solidarity with the victims of chemical weapons and to enhance the humanitarian aims of the Network.
- Creating national and or regional capacity building for emergency response to States Parties requesting assistance and protection against chemical attacks at initial stages. It is worth mentioning that the International Centre for Treatment of Victims of Chemical Weapons in Tehran has been continuously being available to the OPCW through the bilateral agreement with the Organisation.

We welcome any initiative to fully implement provisions of Article X including assistance and protection. However, we strongly believe that this Article should not be used as a pretext to impose investigation or inspection.

Madam Chairperson,

The international community had a great achievement recently with regard to the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. We take note with satisfaction the recent submission of documents by the Syrian Arab Republic and hope that this will be the last step to put an end to the relevant Syrian dossier. It is also important to urge some States Parties who have had politicized approach against Syria to leave this unconstructive approach.

With regard to the outstanding issues currently under discussion between the DAT and Syrian National Authority, my delegation is of the view that the Convention and the OPCW are exemplary in terms of successful multilateralism. Thus, our Organisation is capable enough to solve the different difficulties.

The main solution for a successful conclusion is to adhere completely to the provisions of the Convention as well as the procedures set forth by the policy-making organs of the OPCW.

Madam Chairperson,

As a very principle expectation on tenure policy, we insist that the Technical Secretariat should be representative of all States Parties in a very transparent manner. Therefore, it is very much obvious that geographical distribution with regard to professional positions should be implemented in a concrete manner.

Madam Chairperson,

Last but not the least, I would like to tackle the important issue of the National Implementation for which my country has an exemplary of experience. This was highlighted at the 14th National Authority Meeting of CWC Asian States Parties in May 2016 in Tehran. At this meeting the participants from different Asian countries requested the Islamic Republic of Iran to share its experiences with them and I am more than happy to reiterate that my country is ready to work with other Member States in coordination with the OPCW. This can include a broad range of mechanisms of cooperation like mentorship programme and training courses. I hope this proposal will contribute to our common purpose of achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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