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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 EIGHTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

Please allow me, at the outset, to welcome you back, Ambassador Melono of Cameroon as the Chairperson of this Executive Council. I am confident that under your able leadership, the Eighty-Forth Session of this Executive Council will be steered to a successful conclusion.

I would like to thank the Director-General, Ambassador Üzümcü and his colleagues in the Technical Secretariat for the work they have done.

I seize this opportunity to welcome the new distinguished Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives to the OPCW of Yemen, Ireland, Tunisia, Senegal, Cuba, Viet Nam, Austria, Brunei, Brazil and Nepal.

The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to associate itself with the statement delivered by Her Excellency Mrs Haifa Aissami Madah, distinguished Permanent Representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW, on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

The Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the victims of the use of chemical weapons in Sardasht and its coincidence with 20th anniversary of the establishment of the OPCW inspires us to dedicate again ourselves to work together for a world free of chemical weapons.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that it is vitally important to preserve the viability of the Convention by strict adherence to and respect for all its provisions. In this line, while underscoring with grave concern that the final extended deadline for the destruction of chemical weapons was not met by certain possessor States Parties, my delegation stresses that the destruction of chemical weapons is the fundamental and top priority of the Organisation and urges all possessor States Parties to take every necessary step to expedite their destruction processes.

My delegation attaches great importance to the universality of the Convention and in this context, hereby, strongly calls on the few remaining outsiders to accede to the Convention



without further delay and precondition. We also emphasise that those outsiders should not be able to take advantage of any of the benefits it offers to the States Parties.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the level of the cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic with the Technical Secretariat to resolve the outstanding issues to fulfil its obligations and commitment under the Convention. The Syrian Arab Republic despite facing the difficult situation has shown its determination to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat in a transparent manner. We believe that instead of politicising the Syrian issues, it is the duty of the States Parties to assist the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic through enhancing its national capacity.

In this regard, we welcome the matrix which set out by the Technical Secretariat and Syrian authorities as a framework for resolving issues related to the declarations and we are looking forward to the next round of bilateral consultation between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian Arab Republic in the spirit of trust and cooperation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reaffirms the importance of the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of Article XI. In this regard, developing a comprehensive action plan to strengthening international cooperation and also allocating adequate financial and human resources to achieve the goals of Article XI are necessary. We encourage all States Parties to participate actively in the annual evaluation workshop.

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

My delegation has taken a positive and proactive approach towards this important issue and in this vein, contributed actively in the working group meetings and shared its views with two Co-Chairpersons and the Technical Secretariat as well.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply concerned with several chemical attacks in different parts of the world, inter alia, in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, the latest incident in Mosul in particular. We believe that the international community must take urgent measures and decisive actions to prevent the possibility of any future use of chemical weapons. States Parties to the Convention are obliged to refrain from providing any financial, logistical and military support to those terrorist groups and make every effort to prevent them from accessing any kind of toxic chemical substance. Those who assist terrorist groups to acquire capabilities to attack innocent civilians must be held accountable.

In the context of Rapid Response and Assistance Mission (RRAM), I would like to emphasise that establishment of a mechanism by the OPCW to strengthen its capabilities in fulfilling its mandate set out in Article X was long overdue.

We are of the view that this mechanism and its operational aspects be applied in a manner, which is consistent with the Convention, upon request from a State Party experiencing an emergency and in need of special measures of assistance and protection.

Furthermore, we do emphasise that this new mechanism requires to be approved by the policy-making organs. Therefore, it is necessary that States Parties be accorded reasonable

time to study it and to reach appropriate conclusions, in particular for the practical arrangements prior its deployment.

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

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