



OPCW

Executive Council

Forty-Sixth Meeting
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ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR ALIREZA JAHANGIRI PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN TO THE OPCW AT THE
FORTY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Director-General for his informative briefing. I also would like to congratulate Ambassador Medeiros for his new post at the OPCW and wish him every success.

We welcome the progress achieved on the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, in particular, recent progress on the destruction of 12 chemical weapons production facilities. We also welcome the cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the Declaration Assessment Team of the Technical Secretariat.

We do believe that the historical achievements in this field shall be preserved by all States Parties. It is our responsibility to do our best in this regard. Refraining from the politicising of issues related to the elimination of the chemical weapons programme of the Syrian Arab Republic is the only way for the realisation of our ultimate goal by working together towards achieving a world free of chemical weapons.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that after a year and a half of intensive and non-stop work on this agenda, it is high time to shift it to ordinary mode and pay more attention and focus on other important issues of our work.

I would like also to take this opportunity to inform the Executive Council that yesterday we got sad news from Iranian news agencies that another Iranian survivor of chemical warfare was martyred. Mr Ahmad Zangiabadi, a chemical weapons victim and active volunteer member of the Tehran Peace Museum and member of one of the Iranian NGOs died after 30 years suffering severe difficulties breathing as a result of mustard gas attacks against Iranians in 1985. He attended the Third Review Conference last year in The Hague where he participated actively in NGOs discussions and meetings. The chemical weapons attacks in the 1980s against Iranians are still taking its victims and Iran is still haunted by these attacks; for Iranians it is an open wound...

Wishing him peace...



In conclusion, I would like to request that this statement to be issued as an official document of the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

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