



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Fifty-Seventh Meeting  
4 April 2018

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4 April 2018  
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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 FIFTY-SEVENTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,  
Mr Director-General,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished delegates,

The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns in the strongest possible terms the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, any time, and under any circumstances and those responsible for such act as well as their supporters must be held accountable.

We do believe that this Organisation is empowered to deal with any allegations of use of chemical weapons through a robust verification regime. In this connection, both Articles IX and XIV request the Member States to consider any matter through the existing mechanism in the Chemical Weapons Convention. Therefore, we are of the view that the defined procedure in the Convention could apply to the Salisbury incident too. The Islamic Republic of Iran as an active State Party to the Convention believes that politicisation of any issue in the context of the Convention is not in favour of States Parties and endangers the credibility of the OPCW. There is no doubt that the fact will emerge in future and the ambiguity will fade away.

It is highly expected that the States Parties in any suspicious case which deserves to be considered by the OPCW, present their concrete documents to assist the Organisation on its work in making the case clear. It is obvious that following this approach will certainly help us to avoid prejudgment and accusation towards other States Parties.

I would like to add my voice to other delegations who have associated themselves with the draft decision presented by the delegation of the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation.

Last but not least, while naming some member states as the victims of chemical weapons, my delegation is deeply disappointed to face some statements in which the deletion of the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the main victim of contemporary use of chemical weapons, has deliberately or inadvertently occurred. Twenty-one years after the entry into force of the Convention, I should regretfully say that the Islamic Republic of Iran has not only been the main victim of the use of chemical weapons, but also the victim of world silence.



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In closing, Mr Chairperson, may I request that this statement be circulated as an official document of the fifty-seventh meeting of the Executive Council and be posted on both the external and public websites.

Thank you.

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