



OPCW

Executive Council

Fifty-Ninth Meeting
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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-NINTH MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

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

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to the Director-General for providing the States Parties with the report on the activities of the technical assistance visit (TAV/02/18) team in relation to the Salisbury incident on 4 March 2018.

My delegation has already declared its position on this issue in the Eighty-Seventh Session of the Executive Council. Unfortunately, in that session, we again witnessed quite a number of allegations and accusations made before receiving the results of the findings of the OPCW team. This should not be a precedent for future work of this Organisation. The States Parties fairly expect that in cases such as the Salisbury incident in which there is an allegation of the use of chemical weapons against another State Party, the work of the OPCW proceed in its regular course and after the end of the process and issuance of the final report by the team, the States Parties, invoking the report, offer their arguments.

It is also expected that the OPCW, instead of confirming the findings of other sources, implement its activities such as collecting and analysing information and on-site samples independently.

The OPCW, as the only competent authority in the field of chemical weapons, shall not be used as an instrument to confirm the political intentions of the States Parties. Political disputes shall be settled through their methods and claims against a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention on the use of chemical weapons or toxic chemicals should be dealt with through the existing mechanisms and provisions of the Convention.

We are of the view that the current case on the Salisbury incident could be settled in accordance with Article IX of the Convention, either through bilateral negotiation between the two sides based on a cooperative approach, sound arguments and without any prejudgment or with the help of the OPCW.



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

Thank you for your attention.

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