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Statement by:

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To the

Eight Session of the Conference of the States Parties

Of

The Chemical Weapons Convention

The Hague, the Netherlands

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In the name of God the Compassionate the Merciful

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, allow me take this opportunity to congratulate your Excellency on your election as the Chairperson of the Eighth Conference of States Parties. I am confident that under your able leadership and guidance our objectives can fully be achieved. You can rest assured of my delegation's full support and cooperation in all your endeavors. I would also like to express my appreciation for the valuable work done by the outgoing chairman, H.E. Ambassador Nouredin Djoudi of Algeria for his excellent conduct during the First Review Conference as well as Seventh Conference of States Parties. May I also express my gratitude to the Director General of the Organization Mr. Rogelio Pfirter and all staff of the Secretariat, for their valuable efforts in implementing the Convention and organizing this session.

Madam Chairperson,

CWC is a landmark treaty in the disarmament process and a significant multilateral instrument which seeks collective ways to get rid of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. During the past 6 years, the OPCW has made remarkable progress towards achieving its goal to free the world from chemical weapons. These achievements are result of collective enterprise promoting our collective security, and a good example of the efficacy of multilateralism in promoting international peace and security. Successful conclusion of the First Review Conference also reassured international community of continued genuine multilateralism in the future life of the Convention.

Madam. Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran is fully committed to the implementation of the Convention and total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction. This commitment stems from our nation's horrifying experience during the imposed war and goes far beyond a merely legal undertaking. My country

spares no effort in supporting the Convention and implementation activities of the OPCW.

We have submitted all required declarations, including declaration on National Protective Measures against chemical weapons and all other required information to the Technical Secretariat. So far many inspections have been carried out in our territory by the inspectors of the Organization that have received full cooperation of our authorities. My country has also shared its experience in Medical Treatment of the victims of chemical weapons with the OPCW and other member states. In association with the Technical Secretariat, we have organized five international medical courses with participation of physicians from member states. I am glad to report that the sixth international Medical Course is due to be held in Tehran from 25 to 28 October 2003.

Although, Rule 77 of the Iranian Constitution and Article 9 of the Civil Code stipulate that each and every treaty and commitment of the Iranian Government approved by the Parliament is regarded as law and thus, should be abided by all citizens. It is noteworthy that the Iranian legal system is based on Monism and violations of the Chemical Weapons Convention will be prosecuted and punished as a criminal offence under the laws currently in force in the Islamic Republic of Iran. To better implement Article VII of the Convention, a draft comprehensive complementary new law to cover shortfalls of present civil penal national code in relation to proper implementing of the Convention has been sent to the Council of Ministers for consideration and approval before its final review and adoption by the parliament.

Madam Chairperson,

Global chemical weapons disarmament is an essential element of international peace and security and in fact this is one of the basic pillars on which the Convention was founded. The Convention has stipulated that all chemical weapons and their production facilities should be destroyed no later than 10 years after the entry into force of the Convention and states who have declared possession of chemical weapons bring about the destruction of these weapons at the earliest possible date. Most importantly, the two major possessors have committed themselves to the destruction of

their stockpiles in accordance to the order of destruction defined in the Convention, and even at a faster rate.

While considering the possible financial or technical constrains to the process of the safe and sound destruction, at the same time, it is noteworthy that inability of a major possessor state should not adversely affect the activities of other possessors to fulfill their obligations in meeting the deadlines of the Convention. The policy making organs of the OPCW should be informed of the detailed problem and be reassured in the most transparent manner that the request for the extension of the deadlines would solely be for defined purposes and all possessors will speed up their national implementation measures to meet their obligation at the earliest and in full consistency with the provisions of the Convention.

Madam Chairperson,

The Chemical Weapons Convention remains to continue a landmark treaty developed on dual objective of eradicating once for all, the scourge of chemical weapons from the face of the earth while safeguarding the promotion of trade in chemical substances, equipment and related technologies for peaceful purposes among the States Parties. As the result, the provisions of the Convention are balanced combination of basic rights and obligations including Article XI, which bind States Parties to take measures for their implementation. Formal statements were also made to reiterate the commitment of Australia Group to review and remove its restrictions for the benefit of States Parties. These agreements were highly critical in allowing Developing States Parties to join consensus to finalize the text of the Convention.

It is regrettable that after more than 6 years of implementation of the Convention, this very issue still is unresolved. It is also regretful that recent consultation revealed that the resolution of the issue still lacks political will and even more unfortunate, previous commitments are no longer due recognized and confirmed. What we have heard from the delegations of developed States Parties, has though been indicative of their reversed position and ignoring to comply with their earlier commitments under the Convention. Their system of restrictions has continued to rigidify and grow in scope and extent. Although, the Australia Group has yet remained informal, its recommendations and its list, which contains chemicals

additional to those of the Convention, plus list of equipments, are applied formally as the basis for existing strict national parallel export control measures beyond the Convention

In continuation of our earlier constant efforts to find a consensual common approach, we have provided this august gathering with another proposal (C/NAT.1 Dated 6 October 2003) which is formal document of the Conference, complementary to the proposal of 13 countries in the 6th CSP. This proposal is made in absolute good faith in order to contribute to the success of the Convention and deserves careful attention. We believe the non-proliferation concerns even involving unscheduled chemicals and equipments, within the context of the comprehensive regime of the Convention, directed toward reassurance instead of denial, have been addressed through this proposal, taking into account other international organizations' similar precedence.

Madam Chairperson

The first Review Conference has recommended that a plan of action on national implementation measures to be adopted by the 8th Conference of state parties. As my delegation already stated through my statement at the 34th session of the EC, national implementation should be understood as merit of its own, not as an alternative for international implementation. The implementation of the Convention is strengthened, when; All States Parties and OPCW through international implementation implement all its provisions fully, effectively and in a non-discriminatory manner. National Implementation is very important to the extent that as a prerequisite, it could facilitate the international implementation of the Convention by OPCW.

My delegation has participated actively in intercessional consultations facilitated by Mr. Mark Mathews of the UK delegation. We are sure that in the spirit of cooperation and flexibility this plan of action will be finalized and adopted by this CSP.

Madam Chairperson,

The OPCW is now a full-fledged international organization with a valuable experience. It has been emerged as centerpiece of international effort to prove that disarmament regimes can be viable, effective and cost-efficient. I

would like to stress the important contribution of the Technical Secretariat to the implementation of all provisions of the Convention and its effective functioning. My delegation always supports any attempt to increase effectiveness and transparency in the Technical Secretariat in order to uphold full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of all provisions of the Convention. There is a need to ensure that all interested member States are always consulted on issues of policy and substance, and are provided in a timely manner with all the information which they need. It should be added that as mentioned in the NAM's statement, any changes to the CSP approved program including modification of inspections under Article 6 would have to be considered and approved by the CSP.

Last but not the least, on the draft program and budget for 2004, my delegation is of the view that adequate budget should be allocated to the work of the organization to enable the TS to do its all mandates.

Any decision on the overall growth of budget should be realistic, taking into account mandatory increases as well as staff turnover costs, resulting from the Conference decision on implementation of tenure. Any reduction in overall budget should not impact the operational activities of the organization including ICA. Furthermore the distribution of budget in this program and between different branches needs to be balanced and no particular program should be overemphasized.

It is regrettable that despite the fact that ICA has always been recognized as a pillar of this Convention, the budgetary allocations for it have never exceeded %6 of overall budget. In the year 2004, proposed budgetary allocation is even less than previous years. This trend is not consistent with the objectives of the Convention and needs to be adjusted.

Thank you