Statement by
the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
at the First Committee's Thematic Discussion on
Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
New York - 23 October 2015

In the Name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

My delegation associates itself with the statement made by distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the full implementation and universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention are of utmost importance. This is not only because we desire to fully enjoy the security and economic benefits of the membership in the Convention, but also because of our experience as a victim of the use of chemical weapons in the recent history.

We also strongly believe that the destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles, old chemical weapons and abandoned chemical weapons is one of the fundamental objectives of the OPCW and in this regard urges all possessor States Parties to make every effort to implement their commitments and extend all possible cooperation to the OPCW.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes the substantial progress achieved in the destruction process of the Syrian production facilities as a result of cooperation provided by the government of the Syrian Arab Republic. Regarding the Fact Finding Mission, we look forward to receive a professional, impartial report of the Mission. In this process, it is essential that the FFM respects the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic. We urge the FFM to take into consideration the observations and shortcomings of the work of the previous FFM.
With respect to the Joint Investigative Mechanism, my delegation believes the OPCW and the Executive Council should play their important role in this regard. In this regard we expect that the JIM to fulfill its mandate in a professional, objective and impartial manner.

We express our serious concern regarding the reports on the use of chemical weapons and toxic chemicals by terrorists in particular ISIS in the Middle East. The relevant bodies of the OPCW should consider and investigate this issue in coordination with the concerned States Parties.

Full implementation of the provisions of the CWC regarding promotion of international cooperation and assistance is a common commitment of all States Parties.

We strongly support NAM position "on the importance of strengthening the Convention through multilateral negotiations for a legally binding Protocol". We continue to believe that this very important issue should be addressed in order to explore ways and means to respond to the wish of international community on early conclusion of such an instrument.

The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes the importance role of the BTWC Convention in the total prohibition on all biological and toxin weapons. In this context, the decision of the Seventh Review Conference to include cooperation and assistance as one of the standing agenda items, with a particular focus on strengthening Article X implementation was welcoming step forward. However, we continue to believe that there is essential need for an effective mechanism to ensure the full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of this Article. There should be no hindrance to peaceful activities.

Non-proliferation efforts through export controls can be best addressed by multilaterally, non-discriminatory negotiated guidelines with a view to preserving the integrity and the balance of the Convention. Therefore, national implementation measures should not create undue restrictions on peaceful transfer of scientific knowledge, related technology, equipment and materials among States Parties. In this connection, the Eighth Review Conference is the appropriate forum to adopt specific decisions and recommendations.

We also emphasize on the full, comprehensive and effective implementation of the Convention as well as its universality.

We underline that the promotion of international cooperation as provided for in Article X and removing the arbitrary and politically motivated denials should be adequately dealt in the meetings of States Parties and an action plan consisting of practical and concrete measures to strengthen the implementation of the said Article, as the best way to reinforce the Convention, should be worked up.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.