Mr. Chairman, I have taken the floor for explanation of vote of my delegation on draft resolution L.61/Rev.1. The Islamic Republic of Iran as the main victim of the use of chemical weapons in the contemporary history, attaches paramount importance to the Chemical Weapons Convention. CWC is the embodiment of the international norm against chemical weapons. We were among the first countries that signed and ratified the Convention and we continue to strongly support upholding the authority and full and non-discriminatory implementation of the Convention. We strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances.

The possibility of the use of chemical weapons must be completely excluded. This objective will not be fully realized as long as there remains even a single non-party to the Convention that could possess or acquire such weapons. We urge all those that are outside the CWC, in particular the Israeli regime, to accede to this Convention without any further delay.

Based on its principled position, Iran attaches great importance to the UNGA resolution on the Chemical Weapons Convention. The original goal of this resolution was to promote the full implementation of the Convention and its universalization without politicizing the technical issues related to implementation of the Convention. That was why the resolution could be adopted without a vote for two decades.

But the tradition of consensus collapsed last year due to politicizing the resolution by reflecting in the resolution the view of a group of countries on the most controversial issue and disregarding the view of others. We invited the sponsor of this resolution to reconsider its approach in drafting the resolution and keep this resolution away from politicization. We also expressed our readiness to engage with the sponsor and other concerned delegations in order to find a balanced solution for the controversial issues. It is unfortunate that our sincere recommendation and effort is not heeded in drafting the resolution this year. The
draft resolution L.61/Rev.1 is highly politicized and has significantly detracted from its original goal. It has adopted the confrontational approach of a group of countries in addressing the issue of Syria.

L.61 has failed to even note the accomplishment of the destruction of chemical weapons and relevant production facilities in Syria which took place under difficult and hazardous conditions within one year since the accession of Syria to the Convention. In the draft, four paragraphs have been devoted to blaming Syria and at the same time, the extensive cooperation of the Syrian Arab Republic with the OPCW in expediting the withdrawal and destruction of its chemical weapons and chemical weapon production facilities is completely ignored. Such cooperation prevented the chemical weapons and their production facilities from falling into the hands of the terrorist groups like Daesh and Al-Qaeda in Syria. The Director-General of the OPCW and various fact-finding and technical missions dispatched to Syria, in all of their reports to the Executive Council of the OPCW, have acknowledged the full cooperation of the Government of Syria in supporting the work of the OPCW.

The draft in its OP 2 has taken for granted the conclusion of the Joint Investigative Mechanism. JIM's conclusion is based on speculation and assumptions, which are not substantiated with credible technical evidence and established facts. The Islamic Republic of Iran condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. But condemnation of a State party of the convention on the basis of unproved assumptions and unsubstantiated claims is not acceptable.

My delegation expresses it deep dissatisfaction about the politicization of the draft resolution L.61/Rev.1. This draft is no longer a document to support and promote the Chemical Weapons Convention and has turned into a tool for blaming game and exerting political pressure on the Syria's Government which is engaged in a tough war against terrorism. Therefore, we will vote against draft resolution L.61/Rev.1. Thank you Mr. Chair.