

Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Support of Credentials of the Delegation of Venezuela at the Ninety–Sixth Session of the Executive Council

Mr. Chairperson,

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its position that the only legal and legitimate permanent representation of Venezuela to the OPCW is that which is represented by its Permanent Representative H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah and the members of her delegation. The permanent representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW has submitted her valid credentials to the Director-General on March 2011 and my delegation categorically rejects the continued attempts to question the legitimate participation of the delegation of Venezuela in the Sessions and Meetings of the OPCW. The credentials issued for the current delegation of Venezuela cannot be challenged on baseless and politically-motivated grounds. The international organizations are not in a position to judge the legitimacy of the governments of the Member States. This would be an unacceptable precedent in this Organization that a few States Parties, on the basis of their own interests and views, attempt to question the legal and valid representation of the governments of the other States Parties. Continuation of such a negative precedent will turn the OPCW into further politicization and polarization of the Organization and the States Parties should avoid such inappropriate actions.

My delegation requests that this statement be circulated as an official document of the 96th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the public and external website of the OPCW.

Thank you