Statement by the Delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran
Before the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly
On Other Weapons of Mass Destruction
New York, 17 October, 2017

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

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the NAM statement delivered by Indonesia.

Iran strongly supports all genuine, transparent, and inclusive international efforts for the balanced, full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of instruments banning weapons of mass destruction, as well as their universalization.

Iran strongly rejects any selective approach in the implementation of such instruments as well as any attempt, under any pretext, to abuse these instruments for imposing any restriction to the transfer of technology, know-how, equipment, material, and goods for peaceful purposes. All such limitations should come to an end.

Iran also calls for the promotion of international cooperation and assistance in such areas.

Mr. Chairman,

Iran strongly supports balanced, full, effective and non-discriminatory implementation of the Biological Weapons Convention.

In view of Iran, the most pragmatic option to strengthen the Convention is through resuming the negotiations of a multilateral legally binding Protocol to the Convention.

These will remain our main criteria in assessing all proposals in future meetings of the Convention.

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the 8th Review Conference of the Convention, and recalling relevant discussions during that Conference, Iran calls for adopting a balanced, transparent, pragmatic, comprehensive and non-selective approach in upcoming meetings.

Mr. Chairman,

Iran is the main victim of large-scale, systematic and frequent use of chemical weapons in the contemporary history.

As a result of more than 400 attacks with chemical warfare agents during the imposed war by Saddam against Iran from 1980 – 1988, more than 100,000 Iranian citizens were either martyred or injured. It includes more than 7000 injuries among civilians because
of nearly 30 chemical attacks to Iranian cities and villages. Only in one instance, Saddam's warplanes used chemical bombs in four residential areas of the Iranian city of Sardasht, killing more than 130 civilians and injuring almost 5000 others.

After the elapse of over 30 years of those days, many of those who injured continue to suffer from the long-term complications of the use of chemical weapons.

It is evident that Saddam's army could not produce these inhumane weapons without the assistance and support of others.

According to the well-documented evidence, over 450 companies, mostly from western countries, including the U.S. were involved in the development of Saddam's chemical weapons program.

Given that all of those companies were under scrutiny of their governments, they could not transfer chemical weapons precursors to Saddam without their governments' blessing.

Despite this painful experience, Iran did not retaliate for such attacks. On the contrary, it strongly supported negotiation and conclusion of the Chemical Weapons Convention and was among the first countries that signed and ratified it.

Iran continues to strongly support the full, effective, balanced and non-discriminatory implementation as well as the universalization of the CWC.

Iran urges all non-parties, in particular the Israeli regime, to accede to this Convention without any further delay.

In view of Iran, the total destruction of all chemical weapons stockpiles remains the key objective of the CWC. Non-compliance of a certain party to complete the total destruction of its chemical weapons seriously challenged the credibility and effectiveness of the Convention. Such a party shall embark on sustained and accelerated efforts for full compliance with its obligations as soon as possible.

In this regard, Iran welcomes the completion of the full destruction of chemical weapons of the Russian Federation as confirmed by the OPCW Director General. It indeed is a significant development in achieving the goal of a chemical-weapon-free world.

We continue to strongly condemn the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere and under any circumstances. Riding the world of the danger of these inhumane weapons is a collective responsibility. Iran will continue supporting all genuine international efforts to fulfill this responsibility.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.