



**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATEMENT ON AGENDA ITEM 12
ELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON AND THE VICE-CHAIRPERSONS
OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
TO THE 108TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr. Chair, the United States opposes the candidacy of Iran for a Vice-Chairmanship leadership role at the OPCW. Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism and remains the most significant challenge to Middle East stability. Iran repeatedly worked to protect the Assad regime from international censure for its horrific use of chemical weapons until the demise of the regime this past December.

Additionally, as we said our national statement, the United States has noted to the Executive Council our concern about Iran's development of pharmaceutical-based agents for use as weapons, in violation of the Convention. We call on the Iranian government to end this program, which is just one more example of the dangerous evolution of the chemical threat landscape.

In the interest of ensuring the orderly rotation of the Executive Council in May, however, the United States does not intend to prevent consensus from going forward on this agenda item.

The United States would like to disassociate from the consensus and will request that the Report of EC-108 reflects this position. Thank you.