



الجمهورية العربية
السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

بـيـان
السفير ميلاد عطية
المندوب الدائم لدى منظمة حظر الأسلحة
الكيميائية
رئيس وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية أمام
الدورة التاسعة والعشرين لمؤتمر الدول
الأطراف في اتفاقية الأسلحة الكيميائية
حضور المنظمات غير الحكومية ومشاركتها
29-25 تشرين الثاني 2024

H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH
Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic
To the OPCW

Participation of Non-Governmental Organizations

25-29 November 2024

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Mr. Chairperson,

We extend our sincere thanks to the Ambassadors of the Federal Republic of Germany and Costa Rica and the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for their efforts in conducting informal consultations on the presence and participation of Civil Society Organizations in the work of the Conferences of the States Parties.

We have indicated in previous meetings that the term civil society is general, and includes various popular professional Institutions, Organizations, Unions, Associations, Civil Society Associations, Social and Sports Clubs, Youth Centers, and Non-Governmental Research Centers. The main feature that constitutes the common denominator between Civil Society Institutions and Organizations is their independence and the extent of the services they provide to society in various fields. No State Party has ever objected to the presence and participation of many Civil Society Organizations that achieve this advantage, including Chemical Industry Associations and Scientific and Academic circles.

As for Non-Governmental Organizations, it seems clear that they are the main topic currently being consulted on and discussed. In this context, my delegation supports the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of this Conference, given the importance of these Organizations in enriching the work of our Organization and achieving its objectives. The rules and guidelines, adopted by the Third Review Conference in April 2013, regarding the attendance and participation of Non-Governmental Organizations, have been agreed upon by the States Parties. Since 2013, they have been implemented smoothly and easily, and these rules and principles have proven their effectiveness and contributed to achieving two goals at the same time:

- 1- Respecting and preserving the sovereign decisions of the States Parties, considering that this conference is for the States Parties and is a right of the States.
- 2- Facilitating the attendance and participation of a large number of Non-Governmental Organizations whose participation the States Parties found would enrich the work of the Organization and contribute to the implementation and achievement of its objectives.

Accordingly, any one or more States Parties have the right to refuse the attendance and participation of any Non-Governmental Organization that does not deal objectively and impartially and whose activities constitute a departure from the purposes and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Some Non-Governmental Organizations have engaged in activities hostile to States Parties and have made false and unfounded accusations against those States. Some Non-Governmental Organizations openly declare that they receive funding from governmental institutions affiliated with other States. Upon closer examination of their activities, we find that they are aligned with the agendas of the funding countries, and adopt and spread distorted and false views on purely political grounds. There is much evidence and proof on this subject. Moreover, there are some NGOs that claim neutrality and integrity, that they defend human rights, and that they provide great humanitarian services, but in reality, they are an arm of terrorist entities listed on the United Nations lists. This is not an accusation, but rather a fact. Such Organizations do not serve the work of our Organization, but rather take us to other places, the first of which is political and the last of which is implementing hostile political agendas that have nothing to do with the activities of our Organization in order to serve the agendas of certain countries. Many scandals and

documents have spread about some countries' attempts to invest such NGOs in a political role that harms the interests of other countries. What we would like to point out is a very important issue that concerns all State Parties, related to the value framework and moral responsibility that all NGOs must adhere to in their goals and activities. This issue should be at the heart of any discussion about the presence and participation of these Organizations, and is even a necessary condition for their participation. The question we address to everyone is: Does any country allow a Non-Governmental Organization to engage in activities that do not respect its national laws? This is the value framework and moral responsibility that we are talking about and that should be given great importance.

In the last consultations on November 15, Syria and the Russian Federation presented some recommendations and procedural observations that would serve the main purpose of the presence and participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of our conferences, and at the same time reflect the will and desire of the majority of States Parties for the presence and participation of these organizations.

We call on all States Parties to support the continuation of the guidelines adopted at the Third Review Conference, and to take into account the concerns, observations and recommendations of some States to improve some procedural issues through full respect for the sovereignty and will of the States Parties in this Organization.

Thank you, and I hope that this statement will be considered an official document of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of the States Parties, and published on the Public and Catalyst websites of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.