



الجمهورية العربية
السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

Statement delivered by
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To the OPCW
For the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of The
States Parties

Agenda Item 8: General Debate

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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me at the outset congratulate His Excellency Ambassador Almir Sahovic, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on his election as Chairperson of this session. We also extend our sincere thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Selcuk Mustansar Tarar, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for his professional and competent management of the Twenty-Eighth Session of the Conference.

My delegation joins the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China, parties to the Convention, delivered on their behalf by the representative of the Republic of Uganda at this meeting.

My country's delegation affirms its keenness on the success of our Organization in playing its role and achieving the noble humanitarian goals for which it was established. We urge all Member States to adhere to the essence of the work of this Organization in order to preserve its reputation, role and future.

However, the divisions and polarization witnessed by the Organization are the result of attempts by some countries to politicize its work to achieve geopolitical goals that serve their narrow interests. This ongoing situation in the Organization

distances it from the goals for which it was established, threatens its future and undermines its credibility.

Over the past years, the United States of America and some Western countries have made false and baseless accusations against countries that do not conform to its aggressive policies, with the aim of distorting the image of those countries, exerting more pressure on them inside and outside the Organization, and finding justifications to cover up and continue violating the provisions of the Convention, a living example of this, is the exclusion of Russia from the Executive Council membership and the continuation of this approach.

The United States of America and some Western countries have turned the Organization into a tool to implement their aggressive agendas against Syria, and have worked to impose unjust measures based on false and baseless pretexts. The best evidence of this is the Western decision against Syria, which was adopted by voting in the previous session of our Conference with /69/ votes out of /193/ votes. This politicized decision violates the provisions of the Convention and aims to complement the unilateral coercive measures that are illegal, immoral, and even considered to be economic terrorism practiced by some Western countries against my country, Syria, in a manner that violates

what is stipulated in the Convention, international law, the Charter of the United Nations, and relevant decisions issued by the United Nations, which contributes, along with other decisions, to starving the Syrian people. My country affirms that this destructive approach must stop, and that we must keep this Organization away from politicization, and deal objectively with all files, including the Syrian chemical file, and abide by the texts of the Convention, the principles of international law, and the United Nations Charter. This dangerous approach prompts many countries to ask the question: Can this Organization play its assigned role if it continues in this manner?

Mr. Chairperson,

Our conference is being held amid complex and dangerous regional and international developments, due to the policies of the usurping Zionist entity and the blind support it enjoys from the United States of America and some European countries.

The war of extermination waged by the Zionist entity has entered its second year in Gaza and its second month against Lebanon. This entity has practiced a war of extermination that does not require evidence, and it is the well-documented war of

extermination in history. It suffices to deal with the language of numbers about the victims of this entity and its supporters to discover the extent of the horrific catastrophe moving between the countries of the Middle East. Isn't it enough that more than 60,000 children, women and elderly people were martyred in Gaza and Lebanon, and more than 250,000 were wounded and missing, not to mention the destruction of more than 95% of Gaza and entire cities and towns in Lebanon, in addition to the displacement of millions? All these aggressions on Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Iran and Yemen reflect the colonial mentality that inhabits the minds of the officials and settlers of this usurping entity. Unfortunately, these crimes are committed with unparalleled support, funding and armament, with the latest weapons and the cover provided by the Americans and some Western countries, to ensure the superiority of this usurping entity and enable it to achieve strategic advantage and implement its colonial project. These countries have transformed from supporters of this entity to real partners in all the crimes of genocide it commits. We are deeply concerned about the use of internationally banned weapons by the Zionist entity's forces and illegal settlers, including toxic weapons and materials as well as riot control agents against Palestinian civilians and their property

in the occupied Palestinian territories. In this context, we support the request of the State of Palestine to the Technical Secretariat to monitor and investigate the possible use and threat of use of chemical weapons by the Israeli occupation. We appeal to the Technical Secretariat to carry out its duty and what is required of it in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, especially since Israel possesses a very large arsenal of all weapons of mass destruction, and refuses to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and other disarmament treaties.

Mr. Chairperson,

Syria has suffered from terrorism, and is still competently confronting all of its types, including chemical terrorism. Syria has provided the Technical Secretariat with more than 200 letters containing documented information about terrorists' attempts to fabricate plays of using chemical weapons to accuse the Syrian government of them. The Syrian Notes Verbales sharing this information intersect with all international reports issued by the United Nations, and those submitted by specialized committees and teams to the Security Council, which all confirm that the groups listed on the Security Council's lists as terrorist entities, such as Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (formerly Jabhat al-Nusra) and the

so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), have been able to possess advanced weapons and air systems that terrorists have used on multiple occasions, including chemical weapons. These reports confirm the warnings issued by Syria since 2011. Unfortunately, these communications did not receive any attention from the Technical Secretariat of the Organization, and some Western countries met them with complete disregard and full adoption of the narratives of terrorist groups, and accusing Syria of using chemical weapons. We note in this regard that the remaining strongholds of international terrorism on Syrian territory is spread across areas under the control of the American and Turkish occupations in Northeastern, Northwestern and Southeastern Syria.

Thank you, and I ask that this statement to be considered an official document of the Twenty-Ninth Session of the Conference of States Parties, and published on the public OPCW website and Catalyst.