



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

Subitem 9(d): Addressing the Threat from Chemical
Weapons Use (Syria)

25th - 29th November 2024

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Mr. Chairperson,

Firstly, I would like to point out the following important preliminary observations:

1- Syria joined the Convention in 2013 as a result of its firm belief in the necessity of ridding the world of one of the most dangerous weapons of mass destruction. As a reminder only, Syria was one of the first countries to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, signed a comprehensive safeguards treaty with the International Atomic Energy Agency, signed the Biological Weapons Convention, joined the Chemical Weapons Convention, and fulfilled all its relevant obligations within the framework of these international instruments, which confirms its practical and effective commitment to ridding the world of this dangerous scourge.

2- Syria has worked diligently and sincerely to implement all its obligations after joining the Chemical Weapons Convention, and its chemical arsenal has been destroyed with the approval of the Technical Secretariat and with the knowledge and participation of many countries, including those that are now making false accusations against Syria, and all of this took place under extremely difficult circumstances that no State party to this Convention has witnessed.

3- Syria has repeatedly confirmed its firm position of rejecting and condemning the use of chemical weapons by anyone at any time, any place and under any circumstances.

4- Syria reiterates its keenness to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat and its teams to complete this file as soon as possible, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, away from politicization, and in a manner that preserves its sovereignty and independence.

5- Syria has a real interest in confronting the threat arising from the use of chemical weapons, because it is a victim of the use of these weapons by terrorist groups under the guidance and support of the United States of America and its allies.

Mr. Chairperson,

The title of this item was formulated in a way that includes a lot of deception in the service of the political agendas of the United States and some Western countries. In terms of form, there is no State Party that opposes or refuses to confront the threat arising from the use of chemical weapons. This issue is related to the goals and objectives of the Chemical Weapons Convention, in addition to being consistent with international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

In terms of content, let us quickly review the contents of the decisions that were adopted and approved by vote during the period 2018-2023 and the reasons that led to their adoption and whether they violate the provisions of the Convention or not? In June 2018, the decision of the Fourth Special Session was adopted. The aim of this decision, which blatantly violates the provisions of the Convention, was to create an investigative mechanism whose mission is to issue false reports that serve the agendas of Western countries instead of the JIM mechanism. Thus, the Investigation and Identification Team was established in 2019, which was given a mandate that violates the provisions of the Convention. In 2020, Western countries worked to pass a decision by vote in the Executive Council at its 94th Session for the year 2020 based on a false report from the illegitimate Investigation and Identification Team on the fabricated “Ltamenah” incidents in 2017. This decision, based on this report, imposed unacceptable and baseless requirements that Syria is absolutely unable to implement, especially the Fifth paragraph. In April 2021, Western countries voted to pass a decision at the Conference of the States Parties based on the politicized Executive Council decision of the 94th Session, which deprived Syria of some of its rights and privileges.

At the 28th Session of the Conference in November of 2023, Western countries continued their game, working to pass another decision, which was adopted by 69 votes out of 193 votes, aims to complete the unilateral coercive measures against Syria. It represents a departure, and even a blatant violation, of the provisions of the Convention.

Mr. Chairperson,

All the talk about Syria not cooperating and that it is hiding chemical weapons are just baseless accusations. Despite the ongoing consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team and Syria, and even before they end, these countries are preempting the results of these consultations and making completely baseless accusations against Syria.

Finally, the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms that the reports of the Director General are written in a non-neutral manner, and ultimately serve the agendas of Western countries hostile to Syria, and through them it is suggested that Syria is not cooperating with the Organization, and that Syria is still concealing a chemical program. These accusations are false and baseless, and they are a departure from the tasks and role assigned to the Director General of the Organization as defined by the Convention.

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.