



الجمهورية العربية
السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

Statement delivered by
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To the OPCW
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Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me at the outset to congratulate H.E Ambassador Almir Sahović, Ambassador of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on his election as President of the 29th Session of the Conference of the States Parties. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks to His Excellency Ambassador Selcuk Mustansir Tarar, Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, for his professional and competent conduct of the 28th Session of the Conference.

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

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic, along with a large number of States, considered the Chemical Weapons Convention to be the first multilateral agreement aimed at eliminating an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and that the guarantee for the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons to play this effective and important role entrusted to it depends on the faithful, non-discriminatory, fair and impartial implementation of the provisions of the Convention. However, the reality of the work of this Organization over the past 27 years, especially in recent years, has proven that it has become a tool in the hands of the United States of America and some Western countries to implement geopolitical and security agendas of a regional and international nature against countries that do not conform to the policies and orientations of those countries. The best evidence of this is the attempt to target Syria and the Russian Federation by making false accusations that are completely baseless, of using chemical weapons, and involving what is happening in Ukraine in the work of the Organization. In this context, Syria supports Russia's right to defend itself and protect its national security in response to aggressive Western policies. This destructive Western approach, politicization of the Organization's work,

and violation of the provisions of the Convention have led to its deviation from the goals for which it was established. The independence of this Organization has become at stake, and it is no longer qualified to achieve its purpose in light of this reality, and it has become difficult to restore its credibility and carry out the tasks assigned to it. It is sufficient to refer to the resolutions that have been adopted and passed by vote since 2018 until now, to see the extent of politicization and violation of the provisions of the Convention by these countries, all one has to do is look to the adoption of a politicized decision by voting at the 28th session of the Conference of the States Parties by Western countries against Syria. This highly controversial decision, does not reflect the will of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, but rather that of only 69 out of 193 countries. In addition, the western countries violated what is stipulated in paragraph 23 of Article 8 of the Convention, by excluding the Russian Federation from membership in the Executive Council.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic has implemented all its obligations under the process of its accession to the Convention, and has exerted its utmost efforts and worked with all seriousness, commitment, credibility and transparency during the past eleven years, and has fully cooperated with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization and its teams providing all the facilitations required for the success of its missions. During the period from November 2023 to September 2024, four rounds of consultations were held between the experts of the Syrian National Authority and the Declaration Assessment Team, during which Syria provided everything required of it, not only in terms of logistics, but also the required substantive information, in addition to documents, explanations and information on many issues. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the false accusations directed by Western countries against Syria, such as accusing Syria of not cooperating and that it is still concealing a chemical program, as well as accusing it of using chemical weapons in some fabricated and forged incidents. Syria also

reiterates its rejection of the approach that the Technical Secretariat has been following in its reports, considering it a departure from the principle of neutrality, integrity and professionalism set forth by the Chemical Weapons Convention. In this context, Syria affirms that these accusations are completely baseless and fall within the framework of exerting pressure and direct and indirect acts of aggression against Syria.

Mr. Chairperson,

On 18 July 2024, the “Berlin21” Group circulated a letter to all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, referring to the review it had conducted in May 2023, as well as to a report issued in the European Parliament entitled: “The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Chemical Weapons Convention – The Way Forward” prepared by MEPs Claire Daly and Mike Wallace, on the controversy in the OPCW regarding the Douma incident report (April 2018). The Berlin21 Group and the aforementioned MEPs affirmed their keenness on the future of the Organization and restoring its credibility, by ensuring its full return to work within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Group considered that the failure to respond to these documented shortcomings in the Organization’s report on the Douma incident is unacceptable for an International Organization, tasked with providing objective and scientific evidence on issues of geopolitical importance, which may relate to international peace and security. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic stresses the need for the Technical Secretariat and the Policy-Making Organs of the Organization to study the “review” of the Berlin Group 21 and the report of the two members of the European Parliament on the Douma incident, and to respond to included information and physical, technical and scientific studies prepared by independent Western experts, scientists and academics, in order to restore the credibility of the Organization.

Mr. Chairperson,

The current session of the Conference of the States Parties is being held after more than a year has passed since the war of genocide and ethnic cleansing waged by the Zionist entity's army with American-Western weapons against the Palestinian people, which has led to the martyrdom of more than 42,000 people, most of whom are children and women, the injury of more than 120,000 civilians, and the destruction of more than 95 percent of homes and buildings in the Gaza Strip, with direct political and military support from the United States of America and some Western countries. This war and crimes against humanity have revealed the just Palestinian cause worldwide, and at the same time the criminal truth of the Zionist entity has been exposed, and the falsehood of the claims of the United States of America and some Western countries about protecting human rights, democracy and other slogans. It has become clear that the United States of America and some Western countries are real partners in the crimes of genocide committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people, and they encourage the Zionist entity with their policies to continue this war of genocide and to continue its crimes and repeated attacks on the Syrian territory and other countries in the region. In this context, we affirm our support for the State of Palestine's request to investigate incidents of the Zionist entity's use of chemical weapons against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. We call on the Technical Secretariat to take action and carry out its duties in accordance with its mandate, as it has done in other places and with similar allegations.

Mr. Chairperson,

In order to cover up its failure to achieve its war goals and its ongoing aggression, the Israeli entity has resorted to a dangerous escalation of the situation in the Middle East region with the support of the United States of America and some Western countries. Our brotherly Lebanon is still facing a treacherous and ongoing barbaric aggression that has resulted in the martyrdom and injury of thousands of civilians, and the displacement of more

than a million people as a result of systematic Israeli air and ground bombardment that has destroyed thousands of homes and turned entire residential areas and villages into rubble, in flagrant violation of the rules of International Law and International Humanitarian Law. In the context of its brutal aggression, the occupying entity has committed war crimes by launching cyber terrorist attacks using civilian tools of communication as tools to kill and wound thousands of Lebanese, and has carried out assassinations against Palestinian and Lebanese leaders and figures, taking advantage of the international inability to stop these crimes and to hold it accountable, under the protective umbrella provided to it by the United States of America and its Western allies. The Israeli entity also continues its repeated aggression against Iran, Yemen, Iraq and Syrian territories, which has claimed the lives of dozens of civilian martyrs, injured hundreds, and caused damage to residential buildings and civilian facilities. Even diplomatic premises of other countries in neighboring countries have not been spared from these crimes.

Mr. Chairperson,

Chemical terrorism is one of the grave threats to international peace and security. What we regret is that the Technical Secretariat of an International Organization, has ignored all international reports issued by the United Nations and those submitted by specialized committees and teams of the Security Council, all of which confirm that 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, and the Notes Verbales in which Syria informed the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Technical Secretariat of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons about the preparations being made by terrorists in Syria to use chemical weapons, and the numerous

cases in which these weapons were used in more than one incident against civilians and members of the Syrian Arab Army, without these Notes receiving any attention from the Technical Secretariat. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the behavior of Western countries has doubled the threat of chemical terrorism and encouraged terrorist organizations to possess chemical weapons and use them against Syrian civilians and the forces of the Syrian Arab Army, which was met by Western countries in the Organization with complete disregard and full adoption of the narratives of terrorist groups, and even using those narratives as a pretext for military aggression against Syria, such as the tripartite American-French-British aggression in 2018 against Syria, and accusing Syria of using chemical weapons. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on all States Parties to the Convention to adhere to paragraph 18 of Security Council Resolution 2118, and all relevant resolutions issued by the Executive Council of the Organization and the United Nations Security Council, all of which emphasize refraining from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, or to acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use these weapons and means. In this regard, we note that the remaining strongholds of international terrorism on Syrian territory are spread across areas under the control of the American and Turkish occupations in Northeastern, Northwestern and Southeastern Syria.

Mr. Chairperson,

Achieving the Universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention is a very important step in ensuring the establishment of an effective global regime against chemical weapons. However, this will not be achieved without obligating Israel to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and other international conventions related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. Israel continues to conceal its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction and refuses to join the Chemical Weapons Convention, with cover and assistance from the United States.

Mr. Chairperson,

The crimes of the Israeli entity and its ongoing aggression against Syria cannot be separated from the destructive role adopted by some Western countries, most notably the United States of America, as these countries continued to violate Syria's sovereignty and the unity and integrity of its territories by continuing the illegal presence of their military forces on Syrian territory, and their support for separatist militias and terrorist organizations. These countries also worked to exacerbate the humanitarian situation of the Syrian people by imposing unilateral coercive measures with disastrous consequences on various aspects of the daily life of Syrians. In this context, Syria calls for international cooperation to confront the illegal restrictions imposed by the United States, the European Union and some other Western countries on the transfer of scientific technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries, subjecting them to illegal unilateral coercive measures, with the aim of preventing them from achieving economic and scientific development for their peoples, and preventing them from using chemistry for peaceful purposes in clear violation of the provisions of the Convention and International Law. The decision that Western countries worked to impose and pass at the 28th Session of the Conference of the States Parties in 2023 falls within the framework of what is in fact illegal and immoral unilateral coercive measures, which represents a blatant violation of the provisions of Articles 10 and 11 of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the effects of which, with their wide-ranging impact, constitute a direct and comprehensive war against the rights and humanitarian needs of all Syrians, and undermine the means of restoring their security, stability and livelihoods.

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.