

TÜRKİYE: STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR SELÇUK ÜNAL, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(d) – ADDRESSING THE THREAT FROM CHEMICAL WEAPONS USE

(The Hague, 25-29 November 2024)

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Delegates,

Chemical weapons use has been independently attributed to the Syrian regime by the UN and OPCW on nine occasions after the investigations.

Syrian regime still challenges the object and purpose of the Convention by its continued non-compliance. We note the recent report of the Director-General, dated 25 November 2024.

The lack of progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme is clear in that report too.

After more than 10 years since its accession to the Convention, its initial declaration is not yet complete. There are still remaining gaps and inconsistencies.

The recent DAT findings are worrying. Unreported chemicals suggest a potential that there is a Syrian chemical weapons programme even more extensive than known so far.

Syria must fully and effectively cooperate with the OPCW and all its established mechanisms, including the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT).

We would like to draw attention to the great danger posed by allegedly hundreds of tonnes of Syria's chemical weapons falling into wrong hands.

Finally, Türkiye is committed to ensuring accountability for the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

Needless to say, we thank the OPCW and the Director-General and will continue to support them in their work.

Thank you.