



الجمهورية العربية
السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

Statement by
H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH
Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic
To the OPCW for the 107th Session of the Executive
Council

Agenda Item Thirteen: Follow-up to the Review
Conference

8-11 October 2024

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Statement on the participation Non-Governmental Organizations

We thank the Permanent Representatives of Germany and Costa Rica, as well as the Technical Secretariat, for the efforts made and the informal meetings organized, regarding the participation of Civil Society Organizations in the meetings of the Conferences of the States Parties to the Convention (CSPs).

My country's delegation supports the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations in the work of the Conferences of the States Parties, within the procedures of openness and transparency adopted by the Organization, given the importance of these organizations in enriching the work of our organization and achieving its goals.

We support what was agreed upon by all States Parties at the Third Review Conference in April 2013, regarding the guidelines and rules governing the participation of Non-Governmental Organizations.

Experience has shown that these guidelines continue to have the support of the vast majority of States Parties, and have been implemented smoothly and easily over the past eleven years, proving their effectiveness, and contributing to respecting and preserving the sovereign decisions of States Parties, given that this conference is for States Parties. Therefore, States have the right to decide which of these

organizations are invited to attend and participate or not. Therefore, a State Party cannot accept the participation of a Non-Governmental Organization that attacks it and directs false accusations at it, in addition to receiving suspicious funding to achieve goals that are outside the goals and purpose of the Organization and in a manner that suits the funding parties.

We reiterate the need to differentiate between Civil Society Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations. The term “Civil Society Organizations” is very broad and vague. We support the participation of Civil Society Organizations, including academics and other non-governmental institutions whose activities are consistent with the activities and objectives of the Organization.

As for Non-Governmental Organizations, we point out that there are some NGOs that claim neutrality and integrity, and that they defend human rights and provide great humanitarian services, but in reality, they constitute an arm of terrorist entities that are on the United Nations lists. That is, they work with terrorist groups. It is unacceptable to allow these NGOs to participate in the work of the Organization, as they do not serve its purpose.

Every year, a large number of NGOs are approved. For example, the participation of more than 100 NGOs was approved in the 28th Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

We hope that all States Parties will take these comments into consideration and not change the rules and principles in force of this

Organization and other international organizations. We in this Organization are not a special case.

Thank you and I hope that you will consider this statement as an official document of the 107th Session of the Executive Council, and publish it on the OPCW's public website and the Catalyst.