



الجمهورية العربية
السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

Statement

By H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH

Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic

To the OPCW

**Right of Reply/Subitem (6-C): Elimination of the Syrian
Chemical Weapons Programme**

8-11 October 2024

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairperson,

The United States of America and some Western countries keep repeating the same baseless accusations against Syria in every session of the Council. We categorically reject these false accusations. I stated in the context of the right of reply during the discussion of (Item Five) this morning that all these accusations fall within the framework of hostile political positions against Syria, and are a continuation of the ongoing acts of aggression by those countries against my country, Syria, since 2011 until now.

In this context, we emphasize the following facts:

- Syria has implemented all its obligations under the Convention and everything required of it, as acknowledged by the Technical Secretariat of the Organization in 2014.
- Many of the same countries that are making false accusations against Syria were witnesses and partners in the process of destroying Syria's chemical weapons stockpiles.
- Syria has absolutely nothing to hide, and it has declared its entire chemical program.

- Over the past eleven years, Syria has cooperated fully with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization, and I do not believe that any State Party to this Organization has provided what Syria has provided in this area. We continue this cooperation, despite the efforts of some Western countries to ignore this cooperation, and to even deny it, with the aim of disrupting the ongoing dialogue between Syria and the Technical Secretariat in order to keep this file open and to use it to exert more pressure on Syria.
- You hear from some Western countries here in the Organization and in the Security Council that Syria used chemical weapons in some fabricated and alleged incidents. All the accusations that you hear now against Syria that it is hiding a chemical program or that it has not declared its chemical program are to solidify the lies of those countries and the false reports that Syria used chemical weapons in alleged incidents.
- So the exposed playbook that the United States of America and some Western countries follow is: accusing Syria of using chemical weapons, then working to fabricate the story of Syria's possession of chemical weapons, by using the Technical

Secretariat teams to play this role. The question that we hope everyone will think about answering is: What is the interest of the Syrian Arab Army in using a supposed chlorine barrel or cylinder, which will in most cases lead to difficulty breathing for some people, as long as conventional weapons achieve positive results on the ground.

- The United States of America and some Western countries have turned the OPCW into an arena for settling their aggressive colonial geopolitical scores with some countries that do not conform to their policies. As a result of the political interference by Western countries, the Organization is currently facing a crisis of credibility, disagreements, polarization and divisions within it. All countries that care about this Organization, its reputation and its future must take into consideration the serious warnings contained in the letter of the Berlin Group 21 dated 18 July 2024, and circulated to all States Parties and the Technical Secretariat, as well as the 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. The group stressed in its letter that the future of the Organization and the restoration of its credibility can only come through ensuring its full return to work within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

- As for what the Austrian delegate has called "the Syrian drain". We are keen not to exhaust the Austrian delegation here in the Organization, but we assure him that the conspiracy against my country, Syria, by the United States of America and some Western countries has contributed to the killing of hundreds of thousands of innocent people and the destruction of infrastructure, health, educational, industrial and agricultural facilities. As for what he mentioned about the two pending issues that were opened in July 2024, what we said is that this issue is still under discussion and technical and scientific evaluation between the experts of the Syrian National Authority and the Declarations Assessment Team, and we were surprised by their announcement. As for what the New Zealand delegate stated, Syria has fulfilled its obligations under wartime conditions that

no State Party to this Convention has witnessed, and the Technical Secretariat and its experts who worked in Syria know this fact well. While going through all of that, we have fulfilled all our obligations and within the deadlines set by the Organization in its relevant decisions.

Thank you, and I hope that this statement will be considered an official document of the 107th Session of the Executive Council, and published on the public OPCW website and Catalyst.