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Syrian Arab Republic

Statement

By H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH
Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab
Republic
To the OPCW

**Sub-item (6-C): Elimination of the Syrian
Chemical Weapons Programme**

8-11 October 2024

Please Check Against Delivery

Mr. Chairperson,

Three monthly reports were issued by the Director General during the period from July until now: 130, 131 and 132, Unfortunately, they included terms and interpretations, both implicit and explicit, suggesting that Syria is not cooperating with the Technical Secretariat, in addition to holding it responsible for the delay, and even obstructing the holding of the 28th Round of Consultations. These accusations are baseless. At the same time, these reports constitute the basis and pretext for directing false accusations by some Western countries against Syria here in the Organization and in the Security Council. Although we have repeatedly stressed that the Rounds of Consultations between the Syrian National Authority and the Declarations Assessment Team (DAT) are to be held on dates and times that suit both parties.

Despite resolving three outstanding issues as a result of the 26th and 27th Rounds of Consultations, we were surprised by the announcement of opening two new outstanding issues in July 2024, in a manner that blatantly violates technical and scientific aspects, given that the analysis of the samples on which the opening of those two outstanding issues was based is still under discussion, evaluation and technical discussions with the experts of the Syrian National Authority. The Secretariat was provided with a detailed technical and scientific response to this issue on July 9, 2024, and this was also discussed in Damascus during the 28th Round of Consultations last September. The main reason for not resolving the outstanding issues until now is not because Syria is hiding a chemical program, but because of the impossible demands imposed by the Technical Secretariat, and the continued skepticism of all the information, clarifications and explanations provided by the Syrian side, although the Technical Secretariat is fully aware of the exceptional circumstances that Syria experienced during the period of its accession to the Convention and what followed as a result of the

terrorist war that Syria experienced and is still experiencing due to the ongoing aggression against it since 2011 until now by the Western countries known to you and Israel.

Regarding the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM), Syria reiterates its previous demands that the Secretariat and the States Parties correct the methods of work and approach of this mission, and oblige it to adhere to the provisions of the Convention, the verification annex and the terms of reference agreed upon with Syria. We recall the letter of the Berlin Group 21, and the report submitted to the European Parliament by members of Parliament Claire Daly and Mike Wallace, and the necessity of taking into consideration the scientific, physical and technical reviews and studies they provided. The group stressed in its letter that the future of the Organization and the restoration of its credibility will only come through ensuring its full return to work within the framework of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

Regarding the “Classified Briefing Session” on the Syrian chemical file which took place on October 1 2024, this briefing went beyond its tasks and purpose, and turned into a forum dedicated to preparing the ground for making false accusations against Syria, deliberately casting doubt on the information provided by Syria, and preparing for more of these accusations, with the aim of keeping this file open. Moreover, it attempts to prove false, fictitious hypotheses that Syria used chemical weapons in alleged incidents, as stated in the fabricated reports of the Organization’s investigation teams, and therefore Syria is still hiding a chemical program. The question is directed to everyone, is the DAT a professional, honest and neutral team?

Based on the above, Syria confirms the following facts:

- 1) Syria has nothing to hide and has fully implemented all its obligations and declared everything it possesses in its chemical program, and is keen to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat to complete this file.

2) We call on the Technical Secretariat of the Organization to adhere to the principle of impartiality, integrity and professionalism defined by the Chemical Weapons Convention, and to reject the pressures exerted on it to divert it from its work and mandate.

3) Preempting the results of consultations between the Syrian side and the Technical Secretariat is unacceptable and demonstrates the efforts made by Western countries to disrupt and obstruct any progress in consultations and cooperation between the two sides. We call for an end to this politicized and destructive approach.

4) Syria continues its unprecedented cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, provided that this cooperation is in good faith and in a manner that preserves Syria's sovereignty and dignity. Syria will remain committed to fulfilling its obligations, and is ready to move forward, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and the structured and constructive dialogue, to close all outstanding issues at the earliest opportunity.

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 Catalyst.