



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 - Agenda Item 5: General Debate**

**8-11 October 2024**

**Please Check Against Delivery**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

What we have heard from some Western countries during the discussion of this item is surprising. It is a translation of hostile political positions against my country, Syria. These positions are not new. Some of these countries have carried out direct and indirect acts of aggression against Syria since 2011 and continue to carry out acts of aggression to this day. It is very easy to resort to slander and make accusations that contradict truth and reality. The hostile Western approach to Syria has been completely exposed. Let me point out some facts:

Some Western countries have failed to achieve their aggressive goals of overthrowing the Syrian state, despite the direct and indirect war waged against my country, Syria, since 2011 until now. These countries resorted to fabricating incidents of using chemical weapons through using terrorists as tools including the White Helmets group, because such incidents provide these countries with a pretext before the

global public opinion to carry out direct acts of aggression against my country, and this aggression occurred twice in 2017 and 2018.

The next step was through this Organization, where its work was politicized and used as a tool to exert more pressure on Syria, so you hear baseless terms and slander, such as, Syria is not cooperating. Syria is not complying with the provisions of the Convention. Syria used chemical weapons and they claim that reports issued by the Organization's teams confirm this.

The third step was to work on issuing decisions in different ways through the Organization's Policy-Making Organs by voting and by a majority of less than a third in some decisions. Including, adopting decisions that violate the provisions of the Convention, as in the case of the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties and the decision of the 28th Session of the Conference in 2023.

So this exposed play book followed by the United States of America and some Western countries is: accusing Syria of using chemical weapons, then working to fabricate the story of Syria's possession of chemical weapons, by using the teams of the Technical Secretariat to give that credence.

What the United States of America and some Western countries have committed and are still committing are acts of aggression under international law and the Charter of the United Nations. They are the ones who support and finance terrorists in Syria, provide political cover for them, and continue to do so. The practices of these countries here in the Organization are a continuation of what they are doing in terms of starving the Syrian people, imposing unilateral coercive measures, continuing to occupy Syrian lands, stealing and looting Syrian resources in broad daylight, and covering up the crimes of terrorists.

Just to remind you, shortly after fabricating the “Khan Sheikhoun” incident, these countries launched an aggression against my country, Syria, even before the incident was investigated. This is also what happened in 2018 after the “Douma” incident.

We categorically reject the false accusations we heard from the United States of America and some Western countries against the Russian Federation and the Islamic Republic of Iran. These are false, politicized accusations that have no basis at all. Iran and Russia are at the forefront of countries that adhere to the texts and provisions of the Convention, and they are victims of the use of chemical weapons.

Finally, a question for everyone: What is the interest of the Syrian Arab Army in using a supposed chlorine barrel or cylinder, as they like to mention it in their reports, which will in most cases lead to difficulty breathing for some people, as long as conventional weapons achieve positive results on the ground that are much greater than chlorine that

leads to difficulty breathing for three people in some alleged incidents, as in the alleged “Kabana” incident in 2019, in which US Secretary of State Pompeo accused the Syrian government, even before it was investigated.

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