

Convention for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons

Executive Council M-66

Statement by Mr. Martin Krüger

Deputy Permanent Representative of Austria to the OPCW

The Hague, 12th December 2024

Chair,

We would like to thank DG Arias for convening this timely extraordinary meeting of the Executive Council to address the situation in Syria regarding Syria's obligations under the CWC.

Fully aligned with the statement delivered by the European Union we would like to make the following brief points:

This is a critical time to call upon Syria to fully cooperate with the Technical Secretariat and all its mechanisms. We attach utmost importance to Syria's obligation under the Convention to grant full access for staff of the Technical Secretariat and to ensure the safety of chemical weapons related facilities and material. We welcome signals coming from Syria which seem to point in this direction.

We would like to thank the Technical Secretariat for its decade-long endeavors pursuant to its mandate to uncover the full extent of the chemical weapons program of the Assad regime. We commend the work of the Declaration Assessment Team, the Fact-Finding Mission as well as the Investigation and Identification Team and fully support their work and commend them for their professionalism and impartiality.

There must not be impunity for the perpetrators of the use of CW and we stress the importance of accountability and justice for all those affected by the use of chemical weapons, in Syria and worldwide.

We hope the unfolding developments in Syria will pave the way towards finally closing all remaining issues and discrepancies and ensuring full compliance of Syria as a State Party to the CWC.

Thank you