



**STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
**BY H.E. AMBASSADOR DÁNIEL MIHÁLY HOROGSZEGI SZILÁGYI**  
**PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF HUNGARY TO THE OPCW**  
**AT THE 66<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**  
**(The Hague, 12 December 2024)**

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union.

The European Union thanks the OPCW Director-General Fernando Arias for having convened this extraordinary meeting to address the situation in Syria and for having reached out to Syria to remind it of its obligations under the Convention. In this context, we emphasize the paramount importance of ensuring the safety of chemical weapons related facilities and materials at all locations on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, and of avoiding any risk of proliferation. We also hope that the unfolding developments will create the conditions for clarifying the many unresolved issues, gaps and discrepancies in Syria's initial declaration through the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), and for making progress on accountability for the documented uses of chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairperson,

The EU recalls that under Article VII, para. 7 of the Convention, the Syrian Arab Republic has an obligation to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat and all its mechanisms, including the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT). This is a critical time to call upon the Syrian Arab Republic to cooperate with the IIT, in particular by sharing information, and granting it full and unfettered access.

The ousting of Bashar al-Assad by no means marks the end of the fight against impunity for the use of chemical weapons. On the contrary, it opens unprecedented opportunities to achieve accountability and justice for hundreds of victims of chemical weapons attacks in the Syrian Arab Republic, as extensively documented – among others – by the OPCW fact-finding and investigative teams. Supporting the full implementation of the IIT's mandate to identify the perpetrators of chemical weapons use is a critical step towards ensuring accountability, including through the provision of critical information and evidence to the IIM.

The European Union reiterates its full confidence in the OPCW Technical Secretariat, its professionalism, impartiality and well-established technical expertise in implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention and tasks assigned by the States Parties. While the EU is confident in the capacity of the Technical Secretariat to monitor the situation closely and to provide Syria the necessary assistance, the EU continues to call on Syria to fully comply with its obligations under the Convention.

I would kindly ask you to consider this statement as an official document of this session and post it on the OPCW external server and public website.

Thank you.

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