

The 66th Meeting of Executive Council
Statement by Ms. Hyejeong Ahn
Representative of the Republic of Korea to the OPCW, and
Chargé d’Affaires,
Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the Kingdom of the Netherlands

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Mr. Chair,
Mr. Director-General,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation to Chairperson Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral for convening this meeting in a timely manner. I also thank Director-General Fernando Arias for his statement on the Syrian chemical weapons programme.

Mr. Chair,

I would like to briefly underscore the following three points. First, given the current developments in Syria, ensuring the safety and security of all chemical weapons-related materials and facilities at all locations on the territory of Syria is of paramount importance. It is critical to prevent unaccounted-for chemical weapons from falling into the wrong hands. In this regard, the Republic of Korea commends the Technical Secretariat (TS) for its prompt initial response, including its outreach efforts to Syria and the dissemination of press release. We encourage the TS to remain vigilant about the evolving situation in Syria and remain prepared for further engagement.

Second, we emphasize that Syria’s obligation under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the goal of complete verification of its declaration should not be affected in any other case. Although Syria joined the Convention 11 years ago, the full verification of its declaration has yet to be achieved. This situation leaves substantial quantities of chemical weapons unaccounted for, posing a significant threat to regional and global security. The

Republic of Korea urges Syria to fully cooperate with the TS to resolve all remaining outstanding issues surrounding its compliance with the Convention.

Third, we must stress that the recent developments in Syria do not excuse those responsible for past chemical weapons use from being held accountable. Allowing impunity for such use risks encouraging further violations.

We reaffirm our strong support for the work of the OPCW Syria team, including the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT).

Thank you.