

**TÜRKİYE: STATEMENT BY MS. PINAR GÜLÜN KAYSERİ, DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE AND CHARGE D'AFFAIRES AD INTERIM OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE TO THE OPCW AT THE 66th MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

*(The Hague, 12 December 2024)*

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

Türkiye has been closely following the situation in Syria since the outbreak of the quest of the Syrian people for democracy. We have opened our borders to the exodus of the Syrian people who have escaped a certain death. Our humanitarian policy saved millions and Türkiye has become the country hosting the highest number of refugees in the world. In addition to 3.7 million Syrians in Türkiye, we have been providing and channeling humanitarian assistance to several other millions in Syria. We always follow the situation on the ground with utmost care due to our legitimate national security concerns and implications of this conflict to regional and international peace and security.

The Assad regime itself triggered its collapse by oppressing its own people for decades. There is a new chapter now.

Mr. Chairperson,

Türkiye strongly supports the national unity, stability, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Syria. Türkiye will continue to work together with regional and all international actors as well as the UN system to bring stability to Syria. Until today, we have been paying efforts through various channels and initiatives including the Astana process.

Our policy towards the chemical weapons programme of the Assad regime has been proclaimed in this room and is on record. In the interest of time, I will not repeat them.

However, Türkiye will not let any terrorist organisation take advantage of the fragile situation. We will continue to be vigilant against terrorist organizations of DAESH and PKK and its Syria extensions within the framework of relevant UN Security Council resolutions and Article 51 of the UN Charter.

We thank the Director-General for convening this meeting to discuss the recent developments in Syria. We are sure that Syria will continue to be at the centre of the activities of the OPCW in the coming period. But in this sensitive period, when there is a possibility of achieving the peace and stability that the Syrian people have been longing for for many years, Israel is once again displaying its occupying mentality. We resolutely reiterate our support for Syria's sovereignty, political unity and territorial integrity.

Thank you.