



NV/ODG-652/25

The Technical Secretariat (the “Secretariat”) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (“OPCW”) presents its compliments to the Permanent Representation of the State of Qatar to the OPCW as acting on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic and wishes to refer to the Secretariat’s Note Verbale NV/ODG-636/24 dated 9 December 2024 regarding chemical weapons-related locations.

The Secretariat further wishes to draw the attention to the importance of proper handling of the chemical weapons-related locations and materials therein. The purpose is to ensure the implementation of the Secretariat’s mandate under the Chemical Weapons Convention (“Convention”) as well as to assist the Syrian Transitional Government (“Government”) in managing the risks and hazards posed by chemical weapons (CW).

Accordingly, the Secretariat reiterates its request to the relevant Syrian Authorities and other stakeholders to make their utmost efforts to preserve:

- **Locations and facilities** directly or indirectly involved in research, development, production, storage or use of chemical weapons. Such locations might include military and civilian institutions such as military bases, airports, logistic hubs and others.
- **Any documentation and archives**, as they may contain information related to chemical weapons procurement, research, development, production, storage, movement, testing, use, such as instructions, reports, logs, invoices, personal notes, working documents, and others.
- **Any electronic equipment and devices**, as they may contain information related to chemical weapons and related activities, such as computers/laptops, information storage devices, video recordings and others.

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Permanent Representation of the State of Qatar
to the OPCW
Borweg 7
2597 LR The Hague

The Secretariat provides in the attached file (Attachment 1), the list of chemical weapons facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic to date (Highly Protected). In addition to these, the Secretariat also maintains the list of other potential chemical weapons locations obtained in the course of the work of the Declaration Assessment Team (the “DAT”) since September 2013, when Syria joined the Convention. These additional locations are subject of the future activities of the Secretariat, together with the relevant Syrian authorities.

The Secretariat requests the relevant Syrian authorities to prepare, ahead of the upcoming visit of the Director-General to Syria its own list of additional locations that might have been related to the former chemical weapons programme, or any location of interest it may have found since 8 December 2024.

The Secretariat further wishes to draw the attention of the relevant Syrian authorities that chemical weapons and related materials that might be encountered at the above locations might include highly hazardous materials that can cause severe injuries or death to humans and animals and may damage the environment. These may include chemical warfare agents, toxic chemicals used to produce chemical weapons to cause intentional death or harm, filled and unfilled chemical munitions, delivery systems, storage or other devices, and equipment used for chemical weapons purposes.

Although such materials may appear harmless, re-usable, and may attract the curiosity, the Secretariat strongly requests to avoid any contact with such chemicals, munitions, and equipment. Movement, opening, touching, or destroying such items without the required knowledge, expertise, and equipment can be fatal, or cause severe injuries and may not be in line with Syria’s obligations under the Convention. In case locations or items as described above are discovered on the Syrian territory, the Secretariat requests the following initial measures to be taken.

Immediate measures for securing Chemical Weapons locations

- Safeguard the area by any available means including by isolating and protecting the area from the population and animals.
- Implement visible signs of chemical weapons hazard.
- If possible, take photos and videos from the safe distance (i.e. by mobile phones).
- Inform the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

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Precautionary remarks for encountering potential Chemical Weapons locations

- Be aware of local warning signs and always respect them.
- Do not enter areas known or suspected to be contaminated. If necessary, use only cleared and approved routes.
- Take extreme caution near known or suspected chemical weapons sites or contaminated areas, whether they are marked or not.
- Never explore chemical weapons related locations. If at such a location, do not touch anything. Exit safely through the same path.
- Assume that any unfamiliar chemical or objects are hazardous. Do not destroy, touch, smell, apply to your skin, or expose eyes to unknown chemicals or vapours.
- Do not touch, manipulate or otherwise move any suspicious munitions, either filled or unfilled, or other military hardware.
- Always be alert for other clues of possible danger.
- Provide important safety information to others. Know whom and what to report.

Symptoms of toxic chemical exposure

- Unexplained skin or eye irritation.
- Nausea.
- Disorientation.
- Breathing difficulties.
- Burning in the nose, throat and lung.
- Animals may show similar symptoms when exposed to toxic chemicals.

What to do in case of a chemical emergency

If you recognise a chemical threat, get away immediately and follow these steps:

- Cover your nose and mouth
- If outdoors, move up-wind away from the source. Find the closest building to shelter.
- Shelter in an internal room without windows, if possible.
- Avoid basements or cellars. Toxic gasses may be heavier than air and accumulate in low areas.
- Close all doors and windows. Turn off ventilation, including air conditioners and fans.

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- Seal the room. Duct tape and plastic sheeting is best, but other items like plastic trash bags and towels can be used if necessary.
- Listen for official instructions from authorities on the radio, TV or online.
- Do not leave the safety of a shelter to go outdoors to help others until authorities say it is safe to do so.

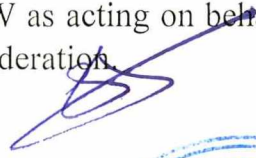
What to do if contaminated

If you are affected by a chemical agent, decontaminate yourself and help others decontaminate.

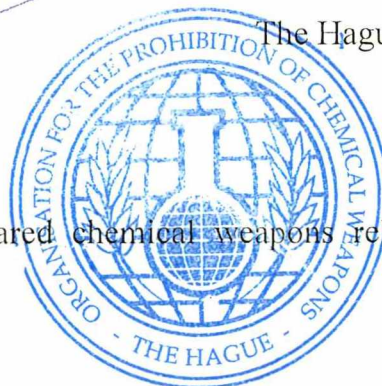
- Remove contaminated clothing, shoes and jewellery. Cut off clothing normally removed over the head to avoid contact with the eyes, nose and mouth.
- Do not remove clothing if it is stuck to the skin.
- Put contaminated items into a plastic bag and seal it.
- Body contamination: immediately flush the body with copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. If your eyes do not require flushing, protect them.
- Eye contamination: immediately flush irritated eyes with water for at least 15 minutes. Use your hands to open your eyelids while rotating the eyeballs in all directions to remove contamination from around the eyes.
- Seek medical attention after washing the affected area for 15 minutes or go to the nearest emergency care facility.

For all additional questions, enquiries and technical matters related to the above, relevant Syrian authorities may contact the Secretariat using the following email address: datoffice@opcw.org.

The Technical Secretariat of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Permanent Representation of the State of Qatar to the OPCW as acting on behalf of the Syrian Arab Republic the assurances of its highest consideration.



The Hague, 22 January 2025



Attachment 1: list of already declared chemical weapons related sites (Highly Protected)