



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Eighth Session  
5 – 7 October 2021

EC-98/NAT.37  
5 October 2021  
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

**FRANCE**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUIS VASSY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW  
AT THE NINETY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

We wish to revisit the note verbale from Syria dated 9 July 2021, which was addressed to all States Parties and reports the destruction of two chlorine cylinders relating to the incident in Douma.

We are deeply concerned about this destruction. The two chlorine cylinders had been stored at another site, some 60 km away, while awaiting transfer to OPCW Headquarters. After the refusal to transfer these cylinders to OPCW Headquarters in November 2020, these cylinders were purportedly moved to a different location, without any notification to the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”).

We call on Syria to explain this matter.

We call on Syria to provide all members of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) with access to its territory without delay, in line with its obligations to cooperate with the Secretariat in accordance with paragraph 7 Article VII of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) and resolution 2118 (2013).

We also call on Syria to provide any information and documents requested by the Secretariat and to update its initial declaration, in line with its obligations under the Convention.

We praise once again the tenacity, professionalism, and independence with which the DAT continues its mission.

I would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and that it be posted on the OPCW’s internal and external servers.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---

