



OPCW

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Ninety-Ninth Session

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MILAD ATIEH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 7(E)**

Madam Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Members of the Executive Council,

We have affirmed time and again that Syria categorically rejects the use of chemical weapons by anyone, at any time, and under any circumstances.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its explicit and clear position rejecting the decision adopted at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in June 2018, which was imposed through voting and only received the support of 82 out of 193 States Parties. Syria voted against this decision, along with 23 other States, and many States abstained from voting. Syria holds the view that this decision is highly political, is contradictory to the provisions of the Convention, helps deflect the Organisation from the objectives for which it was established, and will contribute to a negative impact on the future of the Organisation in the long run.

As for the illegitimate “Investigation and Identification Team” Syria reiterates its refusal to recognise it and deal with it, because it was established on illegal bases and grounds. The mandate given to this team is illegal and is not founded on the Convention.

The reports issued so far by this team prove indisputably the extent of its politicisation and the objectives for which it was established, namely to accuse Syrian personalities and specific individuals, based on the will, instructions, and directives of some States that are known for their anti-Syrian positions.

The approach adopted by this team in its work and investigations is very similar to that of the Fact-Finding Mission. There are dozens of substantive observations that prove indisputably the extent of the serious methodological and legal flaws and errors in the team’s investigations and findings. This team is unprofessional and completely devoid of integrity.

My country’s delegation regrets that the Technical Secretariat and some known States are blindly adopting everything issued by this team, not on the basis of its professionalism, integrity, and objectivity, but because it drafts its reports to the liking of those States, in order to accuse the Syrian Government of chemical weapons use in alleged incidents.



I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

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