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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MILAD ATIEH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO
THE OPCW AT THE 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(F)**

Mr Chairperson,

We have read the report by the Director-General on the progress made in the implementation of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (EC-100/DG.13, dated 23 June 2022). In this regard, we state the following:

Syria has a genuine interest in addressing the threat from chemical weapons use, as it categorically rejects the use of chemical weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances, and all the more so because the Syrian people have fallen victim to the use of toxic chemicals as weapons by armed terrorist groups and their sponsors in several incidents in Syria. This is not to mention some Western States' attempts to fabricate incidents in order to blame them on the Syrian government and bring all forms of pressure to bear on Syria, using these alleged incidents in some cases as a pretext to justify their direct aggression against Syrian territories.

In the report, the Director-General repeated much of the non-objective information contained in his monthly reports which Syria had already addressed in its statement under agenda subitem 6(c) with regard to the accusations that Syria was obstructing the Technical Secretariat's work by not fulfilling its obligations and preventing the holding of the twenty-fifth round of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) and experts from the Syrian National Authority.

Syria affirms that it has complied with the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention, cooperating with the OPCW over the past nine years, facilitating the work of the Secretariat, and providing it with the assistance needed. It continues to do so sincerely and in good faith. Concerning paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 2118, Syria has implemented all its provisions. If what is being referred to is Syria's request to replace one DAT expert, we state that it is Syria's right to make that request and that this paragraph of the resolution does not apply to the DAT. The remaining staff members of the Secretariat have all been granted visas. Their entry into Syria was facilitated and they were provided with unfettered access to the locations that they asked to access. Why is this information missing from the Director-General's report? Must the Director-General not mention that in his report?

Regarding the decision adopted at the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in June 2018, the Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its explicit and clear position rejecting the decision, which was imposed through voting and was supported by 82 States only out of



193 States Parties. Syria is of the view that this decision is political par excellence. It contradicts the provisions of the Convention, helps deflect the Organisation from the objectives for which it was established, and will contribute to the negative impact on the future of the OPCW in the long run.

Concerning the illegitimate “Investigation and Identification Team”, Syria reaffirms its refusal to recognise it and deal with it, because it was established on illegal grounds and reference. The mandate given to this team is illegal and has no foundation in 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 specific Syrian figures and names based on the will, instructions, and directives of some States that are known for their anti-Syrian positions.

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 100th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW’s public website and on Catalyst.

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