



**OPCW**

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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 TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE  
OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 18**

Mr Chairperson,

Syria calls for international cooperation to confront the illegitimate restrictions imposed by some known States on the transfer to developing States of scientific technology for peaceful purposes, and their imposition of illegitimate, unilateral, and coercive measures on some other States, in order to prevent them from achieving economic and scientific development for their people and from using chemistry for peaceful purposes, in clear violation of the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention (“Convention”) and international law.

My country’s delegation states that the United States and its allies, chiefly the European Union, continue to follow a policy of economic terrorism against Syria, namely the unilateral coercive measures, in clear violation of Article XI of the Convention, the United Nations Charter, and the principles and rules of international law. What is dangerous in this regard is that those States claim falsely that they are concerned about human rights in Syria. Not only are they imposing these measures, but they are also waging campaigns of immense pressure on other States dealing with the Syrian State and all its institutions. This has negatively affected the life of Syrian citizens, making it impossible to cater for the most basic needs such as medicines, medical equipment, electricity, oil, food, water, education supplies, and many other necessities of Syrian citizens. We quote here the statement by Ms Alena Douhan, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, in her preliminary report prepared following her 12-day visit to Syria and published by the United Nations a few days ago. Ms Douhan stressed that unilateral sanctions and the ensuing severe economic pressures have had catastrophic effects across all walks of life and on all primary and secondary sectors in Syria, including health, education, and culture. She stated that maintaining these measures against Syria may amount to crimes against humanity against the entire Syrian people. In this context, Syria calls on the OPCW and the States Parties to shoulder their responsibilities and ensure the full, effective, and non-discriminatory implementation of Article XI of the Convention, and to demand that the United States of America and its allies stop violating and undermining the provisions of the Convention and lift the unilateral coercive measures imposed on Syria.

What we find most striking is that the United States of America and certain Western States claim that they are the keenest on implementing the Convention and that they are committed to its provisions. However, reality shows that these States are the ones violating the Convention and undermining the OPCW.



I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference of the States Parties and posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

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