FRANCE

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW AT THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9(D)

Mr Chairperson,

It has now been nine years since Syria submitted its initial declaration upon joining the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention").

Since then, numerous questions (20) remain outstanding in regard to the completeness and truthfulness of that declaration.

Syria's lack of cooperation is unfortunately flagrant and persistent, and as a result contravenes its obligations to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat") under paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013).

Syria's failure to respond to the repeated requests for deployment of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) remains a concern. The DAT's impartiality has been called into question precisely because Syria finds the DAT's conclusions troubling. And yet these conclusions are obvious: the regime in Damascus has used chemical weapons against its own people, and consequences must be drawn from this.

We therefore call on Syria, once again, to grant the members of the DAT access to its territory in accordance with the provisions of the Convention, and to provide all information and documents requested by the Secretariat, in order to update its initial declaration.

Syria must shed light on the entirety of its stockpile. It must comply with its international obligations if it wishes to recover its rights and privileges.

We commend once again the tenacity, professionalism, and independence with which the DAT pursues its mission. It has our full confidence to complete its work.

The French delegation would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this Twenty-Seventh Session of the Conference and that it be posted on the public website and on Catalyst.

Thank you.

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