



OPCW

Executive Council

102nd Session
14 – 17 March 2023

EC-102/NAT.20
15 March 2023
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 102ND SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 9**

Mr Chairperson,

Terrorism in general poses a serious threat to international peace and security, despite the numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, which imposed binding obligations on Member States, starting with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the decision adopted by the Eighty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council. All these provisions required Member States to take many measures to prevent chemical terrorism, secure borders, counter the financing of terrorist acts, and cooperate in cross-border law enforcement, in addition to other measures. Long after these decisions were adopted and despite the provisions of the relevant conventions, we are still witnessing the wide spread of terrorists across borders and their use of toxic substances, regrettably with support, financing, and facilitation from numerous known States that make empty statements and positions regarding their keenness to fight non-State terrorist entities.

Syria has been suffering from this global terrorism for 11 years now and has counted thousands of martyrs among its own people. Tens of thousands of innocent people have fallen victims to this terrorism, which destroyed the infrastructure and all necessities of life in several Syrian cities and villages. To this day, Syria is still fighting terrorism.

Some States have facilitated, financed, and armed those terrorists who came to Syrian territories from more than 100 States through neighbouring countries, in flagrant violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and international conventions, while the whole world was watching in silence.

Syria has consistently and continuously provided the Technical Secretariat with official notes including confirmed information from a State Party to the Convention, in relation to terrorists' movements, transfer of chemical weapons, and fabrication of scenarios in order to accuse the Syrian Arab Army. We have explained how Syria is actually fighting terrorism—including chemical terrorism—on its territories, and we have warned against the risks of terrorist groups gaining access to and using chemicals as a weapon. Regrettably, these messages fell on the deaf ears of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and some States Parties. The intelligence services of some States, particularly Türkiye, continue to provide terrorists with all forms of support, including supplying them with toxic substances and training them in their use. In this context, Syria has informed the Technical Secretariat over the past couple of months of certain



attempts and preparations undertaken by terrorist groups in the Governorate of Idlib to stage false-flag chemical attacks with the aim of accusing the Syrian Arab Army of such attacks.

What Syria has been stating with regard to chemical terrorism is consistent with the United Nations Secretary-General's reports on the threat that Daesh and other terrorist groups constitute for international peace and security.

Syria demands that those States that are known to you all and that pretend to be keen on fighting chemical terrorism by non-State actors implement United Nations Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international counter-terrorism conventions. It also demands that those States refrain from supporting the terrorist groups that we are fighting constantly, while they cover up their crimes and supply them with weapons and chemicals. Those States, in violation of international conventions and the provisions of the Convention, showed no reluctance in attacking the territories of another State Party which is fighting terrorism on its own territories and defending its own people.

I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the 102nd Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

- - - 0 - - -