

AUSTRALIA
STATEMENT BY DR GREGORY FRENCH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AUSTRALIA TO THE OPCW
AT THE 103RD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Agenda Subitem 7(e) – Addressing the threat from chemical weapons use

We condemn the Syrian Arab Republic's repeated use of chemical weapons against its citizens as identified by the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team (IIT).

This includes, in its third report, the chlorine attack on 7 April 2018 in Douma to the Syrian Arab Air Force.

Douma is the ninth chemical weapons attack attributed to the Syrian Arab Republic, on the basis of facts and evidence.

Australia strongly supports the important and impartial work of the OPCW's Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and IIT.

Last week, we pledged an additional \$100,000 AUD to support the OPCW Trust Fund for Syria Missions to enable the OPCW to continue its important work.

Syria must comply with its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention, and relevant UNSCRs, particularly 2118, cooperate in full and in good faith with the Technical Secretariat and ensure the complete dismantling and destruction of its chemical weapons program.

I ask that this statement be made an official document of the 103rd session of the Executive Council, and for it to be published on the OPCW external server and the public website.

Thank you, Chair.