

**NOTE BY THE TECHNICAL SECRETARIAT****REQUEST BY THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC FOR ASSISTANCE WITH THE
DESTRUCTION OF ITS CHEMICAL WEAPONS PRODUCTION FACILITIES**

1. On 29 September 2017, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) received a note verbale from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic. In this note verbale, the Syrian Arab Republic requested the assistance of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with the destruction of the two remaining chemical weapons production facilities (CWPFs) in the Syrian Arab Republic.
2. The Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) approved the respective combined plans for destruction and verification of these two CWPFs with decisions EC-M-36/DEC.1, dated 17 December 2013, and EC-M-46/DEC.1, dated 19 November 2014.
3. Until recently, the security conditions prevented access to the sites of these CWPFs. During the last meeting of the Steering Committee between representatives of the Secretariat, the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), and the Syrian Arab Republic, which was held on 25 August 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon, the security conditions surrounding the sites were discussed. Currently, it is assessed that access to one site is now possible, while the other site remains marginally accessible. During the same meeting, and subsequently during the high-level consultations with the Syrian Government at the Headquarters of the OPCW from 16 to 18 September 2017, representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic expressed their willingness to facilitate the Secretariat’s initial inspections at the two remaining CWPFs in accordance with the requirements of the Chemical Weapons Convention. These initial inspections, which are to be conducted prior to the commencement of any destruction work, are currently scheduled to take place from the end of October to the beginning of November 2017, provided that appropriate security measures are put into place.
4. The Secretariat recalls that the OPCW has already provided assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic for the destruction of twelve former CWPFs within the framework established by the Council in its decision EC-M-43/DEC.1, dated 24 July 2014.
5. The Secretariat calls upon States Parties to consider providing financial contributions to the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons to fund the expertise and resources required to assist the Syrian Arab Republic with the destruction of the two remaining CWPFs with the support of UNOPS.

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