



OPCW

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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BASSAM AL-SABBAGH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW
AT THE FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE STATES
PARTIES**

EXPLANATION OF VOTE

Mr Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic has voted against the draft decision submitted by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, for the following reasons:

1. The decision is politicised and targets a State Party to the Convention, for political reasons.
2. The decision is not supported by any legal basis or provision of the Convention and, therefore, goes beyond its provisions.
3. The decision represents the position of a group of States, which, for the last seven years, have acted to advance a project hostile to and aimed at toppling the Syrian Government and pushing for regime change.
4. The decision will create a dangerous precedent in the international order, by granting an Organisation mandated with technical and scientific matters the authority to conduct penal and legal investigations that are not within its mandate, but rather within the mandate of international bodies concerned with matters related to international peace and security.
5. The decision is based on deceit, by describing contentious, technically unresolved issues as final conclusions supported, and agreed upon, by all the Member States;
6. The decision will deepen the divide between the Member States, end dialogue and lead to further polarisation, thus disregarding the objective of unity and consensus among Member States, and isolating and excluding a group of States. Ultimately, this will weaken the Organisation and undermine its role.
7. The decision was adopted under threat and intimidation by the States that have submitted it. They have exerted unprecedented pressure on Member States to make them vote for the decision.



8. The decision cannot be implemented. It is useless. It will only make the work of the Organisation even more complicated, deepen the divide and polarisation in the positions of Member States, and lead to further politicisation and pressures.

Member States have voted in favour of the decision. This will give the United States, the United Kingdom and France a facade for yet more aggression against Syria. This hostile policy will lead to the shedding of innocent Syrian blood.

Soon, we will expose all the plans, lies and fabrications staged in Syria concerning the use of chemical weapons. Those who have voted in favour of this decision will then realise the gravity of their action in support of the evil plans devised by the sponsors of this decision.

I thank you and request that this statement be considered as an official document of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

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