



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Third Session  
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ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**STATEMENT OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC  
AT THE NINETY-THIRD SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
IN RESPONSE TO ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN STATES TO CHALLENGE THE  
REPRESENTATION LEGITIMACY OF THE DELEGATION OF THE BOLIVARIAN  
REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA**

The Syrian Arab Republic rejects the renewed attempt by the delegation of the United States of America and the Lima group to politicise the proceedings of the OPCW and interject issues unrelated to the mission of the Organisation and to the Executive Council's agenda.

It is unfortunate that those States force their political views upon others, including by determining which government, in one state or another, is legitimate and which is not.

The delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to clarify that no State Party has the right to challenge the representation of a delegation of any other State Party. It underlines that the legitimacy to represent governments is derived only from their peoples and cannot be decided by a certain state or a handful of States according to their political whims and their own interests. Therefore, such behaviour is not only unacceptable but also violates the Charter of the United Nations, and completely disregards the national constitutional rights of free peoples to independently determine and choose their governments and leaders without any foreign interference.

The Syrian Arab Republic considers the Venezuelan government led by President Nicolás Maduro, the democratically elected legitimate government and sole legitimate representative of the Venezuelan people. It supports the legitimate representation of the delegation of Venezuela to the OPCW, headed by Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah. Furthermore, it considers that the attempts to undermine the legitimacy of the Venezuelan government, to exert political pressure, and to impose sanctions are part of foreign interference in the internal affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and compromise the integrity, sovereignty, and stability of Venezuela.

The decisions to recognise other states and establish or sever diplomatic relations with their governments are a matter that is subject to bilateral agreements between the states concerned. On the other hand, international recognition of states and their governments is subject to the resolutions of the United Nations (the Security Council and the General Assembly) and to the validity of diplomatic credentials.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Third Session of the Executive Council and be posted on the public website of the Organisation.

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