

**REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL****STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF  
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL DECISION EC-83/DEC.5 (DATED 11 NOVEMBER 2016)**

1. In accordance with subparagraph 12(a) of the decision of the Executive Council (hereinafter “the Council”) at its Eighty-Third Session entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016), the Director-General shall regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision.
2. In accordance with paragraph 11 of EC-83/DEC.5, the Technical Secretariat (hereinafter “the Secretariat”) shall “conduct inspections, including sampling and analysis, twice a year at the Barzah facilities of the Syrian Scientific Studies and Research Centre (SSRC) and twice a year at the Jamrayah SSRC facilities on dates to be determined by the Secretariat with full and unfettered access to all buildings at these sites and all rooms within these buildings”.
3. In accordance with paragraph 11 of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Secretariat has so far conducted six rounds of inspections at the Barzah and Jamrayah SSRC facilities. The Director-General reported accordingly to the Council on the outcome of these inspections. The sixth round of inspections was conducted from 6 to 11 November 2019. During this inspection, samples were collected for analysis at OPCW designated laboratories. During the sixth round of inspections there were no reported inconsistencies with the Syrian Arab Republic’s obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention. During the same round, the Secretariat also observed some ongoing construction activities at both inspected locations, as indicated by the Syrian Arab Republic during the pre-inspection briefing in Damascus and in Note Verbale No. 48 (dated 22 July 2019). Two rounds of inspections scheduled to be conducted at the Barzah and Jamrayah SSRC facilities in 2020 are still being planned. The conduct of these deployments will be subject to the evolution of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and its impact on OPCW activities.
4. With regard to the finding of a Schedule 2.B.04 chemical that was detected during the third round of inspections at the Barzah facilities of the SSRC, exchanges of correspondence between the Secretariat and the Syrian authorities to resolve this issue have continued. The Syrian Arab Republic has yet to provide sufficient technical



information or explanations that would enable the Secretariat to close this issue.<sup>1</sup> The Secretariat will continue its engagement with the Syrian Arab Republic in this regard and will inform the Council in due course.

5. In accordance with paragraph 10 of EC-83/DEC.5, “the Secretariat shall, as soon as security conditions permit, conduct inspections in the Syrian Arab Republic at those sites identified by the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism in its third and fourth reports as involved in the weaponisation, storage, delivery, and use of toxic chemicals as weapons”. The Secretariat has begun planning for these inspections, and will continue to monitor the security situation through the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, while also taking into account the evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on OPCW activities.
6. Also in accordance with paragraph 10 of EC-83/DEC.5, “the Secretariat shall retain and promptly analyse any information or materials, including samples from the Syrian chemical weapons programme that it considers relevant to existing or future allegations of chemical weapons possession or use”. The Secretariat continues the process of analysing such information and materials, including samples.
7. With respect to paragraph 6 and subparagraph 12(b) of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5, the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) continues to work to resolve all identified gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies in the initial declaration and subsequent submissions of the Syrian Arab Republic. In accordance with the decision of the Director-General to postpone all planned deployments and missions until further notice in view of the COVID-19 outbreak, the next round of consultations, initially planned to begin on 15 March 2020 in Damascus, will take place as soon as conditions allow.
8. To prepare for the next round of consultations, the Director-General sent a letter (dated 21 April 2020) to the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates of the Syrian Arab Republic, H.E. Dr Faisal Mekdad, with a document containing an updated status of outstanding issues and the proposed plan of action for their resolution, as discussed in October 2019 during the last round of consultations. In the letter, the Director-General requested the Syrian National Authority to submit further information in accordance with this plan at the earliest opportunity. The Syrian Arab Republic provided a response (dated 16 June 2020) to the letter, expressing its full readiness to continue consultations and technical meetings with the Secretariat. On 26 June 2020, the Director-General responded to the Syrian Arab Republic’s letter noting again the Syrian National Authority’s readiness to cooperate. The Director-General reiterated his call to the Syrian Arab Republic to provide the requested information/documents at the earliest so that the DAT can prepare for the next round of consultations.
9. The Director-General will continue to keep the Council informed of matters relating to the implementation of Council decision EC-83/DEC.5.

--- 0 ---

---

<sup>1</sup> Note verbale (dated 7 November 2019) sent by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretariat; note verbale (dated 20 February 2020) sent by the Secretariat to the Syrian Arab Republic; note verbale (dated 12 March 2020) sent by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretariat; note verbale (dated 21 April 2020) sent by the Secretariat to the Syrian Arab Republic; note verbale (dated 12 May 2020) sent by the Syrian Arab Republic to the Secretariat; and note verbale (dated 19 June 2020) sent by the Secretariat to the Syrian Arab Republic.