



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Fourth Session

7 – 9 July 2020

EC-94/NAT.64

7 July 2020

ARABIC and ENGLISH only

**SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC**

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR BASSAM SABBAGH  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO THE  
OPCW AT THE NINETY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
IN EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF REPLY TO ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN STATES  
TO CHALLENGE THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATION OF THE LEGITIMATE  
PERMANENT MISSION OF THE BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF VENEZUELA TO  
THE OPCW**

Mr Chairperson,

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW voices its support for the legitimate Permanent Mission of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the OPCW and its Permanent Representative, Her Excellency Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah. It categorically rejects the statement circulated by a number of States ahead of the Ninety-Fourth Session as part of repeated and persistent attempts to use the OPCW to impose false political interests that have no relation whatsoever with the purpose of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Council's agenda. Syria affirms its support for Venezuela and its representation to the OPCW, in line with the principle of State sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. The recognition or non-recognition of the status of a State does not fall within the remit of the Organisation.

Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to underscore the principle of commitment by States in their international relations to refraining from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial or political integrity of any State in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations. Syria also emphasises the principle of peaceful settlement of international conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. The statements delivered by some States Parties constitute a violation of the principles of international relations based on international law. The legitimate Government of Venezuela is the one headed by President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May 2018 by 68% of the votes in elections that were monitored by 120 international observers.

I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Fourth Session of the Executive Council.

Thank you.

--- 0 ---

