



**OPCW**

**Executive Council**

Ninety-Fifth Session  
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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-FIFTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL  
ON THE ATTEMPTS BY CERTAIN STATES TO CHALLENGE  
THE LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATION OF THE 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 H.E. Ambassador Haifa Aissami Madah.

The Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the statement circulated by a number of States Parties ahead of the Ninety-Fifth Session, as part of repeated and persistent attempts to use the OPCW to impose false political statements and private agendas, that have no relation whatsoever with the purposes of the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Council's agenda. Syria reiterates its support for Venezuela and its representation to the OPCW, in line with the principle of State sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs.

Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic wishes to underscore the principle of commitment by States Parties in their international relations to refrain from the use or threat of use of force against the territorial or political integrity of any State Party, in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations Charter, and which constitutes a violation of the principles of international relations based on international law.

The legitimate Government of Venezuela, which is recognised internationally and in the United Nations, is the one headed by H.E. President Nicolás Maduro, who was constitutionally elected on 20 May 2018, in elections monitored by 120 international observers.

I kindly request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Fifth Session of the Executive Council, and be published on the OPCW public website and the external site.

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