



OPCW

Executive Council

Ninety-Seventh Session
6 – 8 July 2021

EC-97/NAT.52
6 July 2021
ENGLISH and FRENCH only

FRANCE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR LUIS VASSY
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC TO THE OPCW
AT THE NINETY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

In September it will have been eight years since Syria submitted its initial declaration upon joining the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”), and eight years since United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 was adopted.

From the very beginning, questions have been raised about the completeness and veracity of this initial declaration. Nearly eight years later, numerous questions still remain open. We have noted with concern the addition of a new question, the twentieth, to the long and already existing list.

Syria’s failure to answer the two requests for deployment of the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT) in May is particularly alarming.

We call on Syria to grant the DAT members access to its territory the next time the Director-General makes a request for deployment, in accordance with its obligation to cooperate with the Technical Secretariat (“the Secretariat”) in application of paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention and resolution 2118 (2013).

We also call on Syria to provide all information and documents requested by the Secretariat and to update its initial declaration, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention.

Once again we praise the tenacity, professionalism, and independence with which the DAT has carried out its mission.

I would ask that this statement be considered as an official document of this session of the Executive Council and that it be posted on the OPCW’s internal and external servers.

Thank you.

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