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SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR MILAD ATIEH
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC TO
THE OPCW AT THE NINETY-NINTH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 10**

Madam Chairperson,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Members of the Executive Council,

Terrorism in general poses a serious threat to international peace and security, despite the numerous United Nations Security Council resolutions, which imposed binding obligations on Member States, starting with the Security Council resolution of 2001, the provisions of paragraph 2, Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the decision adopted during the Eighty-Sixth Session of the Executive Council. All these provisions required Member States to take many measures to prevent chemical terrorism, secure borders, counter the financing of terrorist acts, and cooperate in cross-border law enforcement, in addition to other measures. Long after these decisions were adopted and despite the provisions of the relevant conventions, we are still witnessing the spread of terrorists across borders and their use of toxic substances, regrettably with support, financing, and facilitation from numerous States.

Whoever expects the threat of terrorism to be confined to one geographical area is wrong and deluded. Terrorism recognises no borders, and we must all counter it, today in Syria, tomorrow in Africa, and who knows where next.

Syria has been suffering from this global terrorism for 11 years and has offered thousands of martyrs among its own people. Tens of thousands of innocent people have fallen victims to this terrorism, which destroyed the infrastructure and all necessities of life in several Syrian cities and villages. To this day, Syria is still fighting terrorism.

Some States have facilitated, financed, and armed those terrorists who came to Syrian territories from more than 100 States through neighbouring countries, in flagrant violation of relevant Security Council resolutions and international conventions, while the whole world was watching in silence.

I have read the report published a few days ago on the Foreign Policy magazine's website, and I hope that you have read it too. The report states that the Idlib Governorate has become a sanctuary for terrorists, according to the magazine's website.



Syria has consistently and continuously provided the Technical Secretariat with official notes with confirmed information from a State Party to the Convention, in relation to terrorists' movements, their transfer of chemical weapons, and their fabrication of scenarios in order to accuse the Syrian Arab Army. We have explained how Syria is actually fighting terrorism—including chemical terrorism—on its territories, and we have warned against the risks of terrorist groups' access to and use of chemicals as a weapon. Regrettably, these messages fell on the deaf ears of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and some States Parties. Some States, especially Turkey, are still providing terrorists with all kinds of support, including supplying them with toxic substances and training them in their use. On 18 February 2022, there were reports of toxic gas leakage in the Kafr Lusin town on the borders with Turkey, causing symptoms of suffocation and breathing difficulties among dozens of individuals in the town.

What Syria has been stating with regard to chemical terrorism is consistent with the United Nations Secretary-General's reports on the threat of Daesh and other terrorist groups to international peace and security.

Syria has joined all of the above-mentioned international conventions related to international counter-terrorism and has included in the Syrian Criminal Code certain provisions to punish terrorist crimes. Preparations are under way to issue a new special counter-terrorism law in the framework of the development of our national legislation.

Syria calls upon those States that are well-known to you all to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international counter-terrorism conventions. It also calls upon them to refrain from supporting the terrorist groups that we are fighting constantly and that they are supplying with weapons and chemicals. These States, in violation of international treaties and the provisions of the Convention, showed no reluctance in attacking the territories of another State Party which is fighting terrorism on its own territories and defending its own people.

I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the Ninety-Ninth Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's public website and Catalyst.

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