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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 100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL UNDER
AGENDA ITEM 8**

Mr Chairperson,

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 Security Council Resolution 1373 (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. They all required Member States to take numerous 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 many 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 now and has lost 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 these 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.

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, the transfer of chemical weapons, and the 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 Türkiye, are still providing terrorists with all kinds of support, including supplying them with toxic substances and training them in their use.

Syria has informed the Technical Secretariat in three separate letters that terrorist groups are preparing false-flag attacks with chemical weapons to blame them on the Syrian Arab Army:

- 1- In April 2022, Syria informed the Technical Secretariat that a load of boxes containing toxic chemicals was taken out of a US army base in the Al-Tanf area and delivered to the so-called "National Army" which is supported by Türkiye, to be used against civilians in Deir al-Zour



villages in order to accuse the Syrian Arab Army of such use. This false-flag attack was also prepared in the al-Rukban camp. According to the US-sponsored plan, this fabricated incident will be an excuse to launch military strikes on military positions of the Syrian Arab Army that is fighting the Daesh terrorist group in the Syrian desert and Deir al-Zour.

- 2- In April 2022, we provided the Technical Secretariat with information that the terrorist group, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Al-Nusra Front), in coordination with the Turkish occupying forces, was moving modified missiles carrying highly toxic chemical warheads in the Idlib countryside, to accuse the Syrian Arab Army of their use.
- 3- In May 2022, we provided the Technical Secretariat with information that the terrorist group, Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (Al-Nusra Front), was moving toxic chemicals in the Idlib countryside in preparation for false-flag attacks using chemical weapons in order to accuse the Syrian Arab Army of such use.

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

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

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 counterterrorism conventions. It also calls upon them to refrain from supporting the terrorist groups that we are fighting constantly, while those States are supplying them 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 100th Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's public website and on Catalyst.

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