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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 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(G)**

Mr Chairperson,

We have read the report by the Director-General (EC-101/DG.26, dated 29 September 2022), on the progress in the implementation of decision C-SS-4/DEC.3. In this regard, we would like to highlight the following:

1. Syria has a genuine interest in addressing the threat from the use of chemical weapons. This is because Syria rejects categorically the use of those weapons by anyone, anywhere, and under any circumstances, and especially because the Syrian people were a victim of the use of toxic substances as weapons in many incidents by armed terrorist groups and their sponsors in Syria. This is in addition to attempts by some Western States to fabricate those incidents in order to blame them on the Syrian Government, exert all forms of pressure on Syria through alleged incidents, and commit a military aggression against Syria on many an occasion.
2. The Director-General repeated in that report a lot of non-objective information using the same language contained in the monthly reports by the Director-General, which Syria had already addressed in its statement under agenda item 6(C), accusing Syria of hampering the work of the Technical Secretariat on account of its failure to fulfil its obligations, and of preventing the holding of the twenty-fifth round of consultations between the Declaration Assessment Team and the experts of the Syrian National Authority.
3. Syria affirms that it has adhered to the provisions of paragraph 7 of Article VII of the Convention and that it has cooperated with the OPCW over the past nine years and facilitated and supported the work of the Secretariat in good faith and sincere will. In this vein, Syria affirms that paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) does not apply to Syria's request to replace an expert of the Declaration Assessment Team; this is Syria's right. Concerning the remaining staff members of the Secretariat and other OPCW teams, Syria has cooperated with the members of those teams, granted all of them the required visas, facilitated their entry to Syria, and granted them unfettered access to the places that they requested to visit. Syria's genuine cooperation is in total contradiction with the report by the Director-General. Syria hopes that the Director-General refers to this matter in his report.



4. The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its explicit and clear position rejecting the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties in June 2018. This decision is politicised, contradicts the provisions of the Convention, was imposed through voting, and was supported by 82 States only out of 193 States Parties. This decision contributes to the OPCW's deviation from the objectives for which it was established and will negatively impact the Organisation in the long term.
5. As for the illegitimate Investigation and Identification Team (IIT), Syria reaffirms its refusal to recognise this team and to deal with it as it was established with an illegal reference and an illegal mandate that is not based on the Convention. The reports issued so far by the IIT prove beyond any doubt the sheer scale of politicisation and the objectives for which the team was established, namely accusing Syrian figures and sovereign names and symbols, following the instructions and directives of some States known for their hostile positions against Syria. My country's delegation regrets that the Technical Secretariat and some known States adopt blindly all that emanates from this team, not because of its professionalism, integrity, and objectivity, but because it drafts its reports to the linking of these States, i.e., to accuse the Syrian Government of using chemical weapons in alleged incidents.

I thank you and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the 101st Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW public website and on Catalyst.

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