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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 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 of Article VI of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and the decisions adopted by the Executive Council and the Conference of the States Parties. All these provisions required States Parties 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 wide spread of terrorists across borders and their use of toxic substances, regrettably with support, financing, and facilitation from numerous known States that make empty rhetorical statements and positions regarding their keenness to fight non-state terrorist entities.

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 counted 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.

Syria, the State Party, has consistently and continuously provided the Technical Secretariat with official notes including confirmed information on 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 gaining access to and



using chemicals as a weapon. Regrettably, these messages fell on the deaf ears of the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW and some States Parties. The intelligence services of some States continue to provide terrorists with all forms of support, including supplying them with toxic substances and training them in their use. In this context, Syria informed the Technical Secretariat, on 16 June 2022, that the White Helmets terrorist group was in a state of alert and mobilisation in the city of Idlib to stage a false-flag chemical attack in the Governorate of Idlib. According to the information received, this terrorist group, in coordination with the Jabhat al-Nusra terrorist group, will stage a false-flag chemical attack in the city of Ariha (Governorate of Idlib) and in Jisr al-Shughur (Governorate of Idlib) with the aim of accusing the Syrian Arab Army of using chemical weapons. This message is added to the other messages reported over the past few months.

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 constitute for international peace and security.

Syria calls upon those States that are known to you all and that pretend to be keen on fighting chemical terrorism by non-State actors to implement United Nations Security Council resolutions and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention and international counter-terrorism conventions. It also calls on those States to refrain from supporting the terrorist groups that we are fighting constantly, while they cover up their crimes and supply them with weapons and chemicals. These States, in violation of international conventions 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 101st Session of the Executive Council and posted on the OPCW's public website and Catalyst.

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