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TÜRKİYE

**STATEMENT BY H.E. AMBASSADOR ŞABAN DIŞLI
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE TO THE
OPCW AT THE 101ST SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Mr Chairperson,
Mr Director-General,

At the outset, I would like to thank the Chairperson, H.E. Ambassador Ziad M. D. Al Atiyah of Saudi Arabia, for his efforts.

I would also like to commend the Director-General, H.E. Mr Fernando Arias, for his leadership of the OPCW Secretariat in fulfilling the mandate of the Organisation.

Türkiye takes this opportunity to express once again its support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine. Türkiye considers the military offensive by the Russian Federation against Ukraine a grave violation of international law. Our efforts for a negotiated end to the conflict will continue.

The OPCW and the Chemical Weapons Convention (“the Convention”) remain crucial pillars of the global disarmament and non-proliferation regime. This is exactly why the Organisation should be provided the necessary resources to continue its effective implementation of the tasks under the Convention. On the other hand, the Organisation should spare no effort to make savings wherever possible.

The Fifth Review Conference, to be held in 2023, will be critical in reaching a common understanding to address the challenges facing the Convention and to keep the Organisation fit for purpose. In this respect, we appreciate the efforts of the Chairperson of the Open-Ended Working Group, H.E. Ambassador Lauri Kuusing of Estonia, and encourage all States Parties to work together with an open mind in order have a consensual outcome.

We reiterate that any use of chemical weapons anywhere, at any time, by anyone, under any circumstances is unacceptable.

On many occasions, Türkiye has underlined the importance of accountability and prevention of impunity of the perpetrators of chemical weapons use. In this context, Türkiye once again expresses its support for the work of the OPCW and its Syria missions in addressing the gaps in the Syrian chemical weapons declaration, as well as establishing the facts on the allegations of chemical weapons use and the perpetrators.



Failure of the Syrian regime in fulfilling its obligations under international law is a cause of grave concern. Considering the assessment of the OPCW Technical Secretariat that the declaration submitted by the Syrian regime still cannot be considered accurate and complete in accordance with the Convention, we closely follow and support the work to resolve the remaining identified gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies.

After nine years since its accession to the Convention, it is unacceptable that the Syrian regime has not made a complete declaration yet. The regime must declare the full extent of its chemical weapons programme without any further delay, extend its full cooperation, and put an end to its obstruction to the work of the OPCW Syria missions in contravention of the Convention, United Nations Security Council resolution 2118, and relevant decisions of the OPCW policy-making organs.

I kindly request that this statement be considered as an official document and be posted on Catalyst and the public website.

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