



OPCW

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ENGLISH and FRENCH only

CANADA

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA TO THE OPCW AT THE
100TH SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
UNDER AGENDA ITEM 6(C)**

Mr Chairperson,

Our concerns about Syria's non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention ("the Convention") and its failure to produce a complete and accurate initial declaration remain unabated.

It has been established that on eight separate occasions Syria's armed forces used sarin and chlorine as chemical weapons in the military conflict since Syria became a State Party to the Convention. This is a violation of the general obligations under Article 1 of the Convention.

The unresolved gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies in Syria's initial declaration have only grown since 2013, standing today at a staggering 20. The latest issue of concern was opened only last year. This puts Syria in contravention of Article 3 of the Convention.

Twenty outstanding gaps, inconsistencies, and discrepancies over nine years and eight attributed cases of chemical weapons use can only mean that Syria has not destroyed the entirety of its chemical weapons programme.

Recent refusals to grant visas to OPCW staff, attempts to cherry-pick inspectors, and other underhanded tactics are preventing the Technical Secretariat ("the Secretariat") from carrying out its work. Syria alone bears responsibility for the lack of progress on completing its initial declaration. We recognise the efforts of the Secretariat to find solutions to these challenges under impossible conditions imposed by Syria, and salute their professionalism in the face of relentless, yet baseless attacks.

Syria has failed in its responsibilities to uphold the Convention, to fulfil the legitimate requests made of it by the international community in United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), and to abide by the destruction regime mandated by this Council in its initial decision on this matter.

Canada will continue to monitor this issue closely, and to remain steadfast in its efforts to hold the Assad regime accountable for its violations of international law.

Thank you, Mr Chairperson.

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