



الجمهورية العربية السورية

Syrian Arab Republic

**The National Statement of**

**The Syrian Arab Republic**

**Delivered by**

**H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH**

**Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic**

**To the OPCW**

**At the One Hundred and Fourth Session**

**of the Executive Council**

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**English Translation**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Firstly, I extend to His Excellency Ambassador Lucian Vatu, Permanent Representative of Romania to the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, my best wishes for his success in managing the work of this session.

My delegation joins the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China Parties to the Convention, delivered on their behalf by the representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan at this session.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

We reiterate once again that some Western countries are still working to involve this technical organization in geopolitical and security issues of a regional and international nature. This is clearly demonstrated by these countries' use of the meetings of the Organization's policy-making organs as a platform to level false accusations against the Russian Federation in connection with its special military operation in Ukraine. In this context, Syria supports Russia's right to defend itself and protect its national security in response to the aggressive Western policies. Syria's position in support of the Russian special military operation in Ukraine was and will remain based on well-established political, moral and legal principles considerations.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Syrian Arab Republic joined the Chemical Weapons Convention on October 14, 2013, based on its firm belief in the necessity of getting rid of one of the most dangerous types of weapons of mass destruction, and it was a purely

Syrian sovereign decision, and because of its categorical rejection of the use of chemical weapons for moral and humanitarian reasons, and therefore it made every effort possible and worked with all diligence, commitment, credibility and transparency to implement all its obligations under this accession process, within record time, despite the strict timetables imposed by the Organization and the extremely difficult conditions that Syria went through as a result of the war imposed on it by the United States of America and its allies, and terrorist groups. Over the past ten years, Syria has accomplished all of what was required of it. It cooperated fully with the Organization's Technical Secretariat and its teams. Therefore, we can say that the Syrian chemical program has been fully completed, and this is confirmed in the reports of the Technical Secretariat and the Director-General of the Organization, which confirm that all the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic and deported from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed. The Technical Secretariat also verified the destruction of all The 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

With regard to the Syrian chemical file, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons has transformed from a technical Organization with lofty goals to a tool in a geopolitical game led by the United States of America and its allies, as it has moved away from the professionalism and goals for which it was established, and the Organization is currently living in a state of unprecedented division that threatens its future. The Syrian Arab Republic faced a historically unprecedented campaign of skepticism and false accusations of non-cooperation with the Organization and its Technical Secretariat. The behavior of these countries is in stark contrast to the provisions of the Convention, the principles of international law and the Charter of the

United Nations, and this destructive Western approach falls within the framework of employing our Organization and the remaining technical aspects of the Syrian chemical file to serve its hostile political purposes against Syria, and using this file as a means of military intervention, justifying the repeated aggressions against Syrian territory, and justifying any aggression that Western countries plan against Syria in the future. Since 2018, the Organization has suffered a serious deviation in its work, as a result of attempts by Western countries to impose decisions that contradict what the convention stipulates, which led to a state of polarization and sharp divisions that it had not witnessed before.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

The Organization's Technical Secretariat acknowledges in a report issued on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2023, that Syria provided it with more than 200 Notes Verbales about terrorist attempts to prepare and fabricate incidents of the use of toxic substances as weapons in order to accuse the Syrian government of them. What the Syrian Arab Republic regrets is the deliberate disregard and neglect of all the information and evidence provided by Syria regarding the possession of chemical weapons by terrorists in Syria and their use of them in more than one incident that occurred against Syrian civilians and the Syrian Arab Army, upon instructions from the United States of America, France, Turkey and some other Western countries. Above all, the Technical Secretariat says in its report that no such link has ever been proven between the content of these Syrian notes and the Secretariat's investigations.

In this context, the Technical Secretariat of the Organization, as an international organization, ignores all international reports issued by the United Nations, and those submitted by committees and specialized teams to the

Security Council, all of which confirm that the groups included on the Security Council's lists as terrorist entities, such as the organization of "Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham", Al-Nusra Front (formerly) and the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) have been able to possess advanced weapons and air systems that have been used by terrorists on multiple occasions, including chemical weapons. They have been organizing and encouraging the use of chemical weapons.

Those groups manufacture and produce chemical rockets and mortars, in addition to developing, testing, arming and deploying a range of chemical agents. The best example of this is what terrorist groups recently carried out by targeting one of the military colleges in Syria, with drones, on October 5, 2023, during the graduation ceremony of its officer cadets, in which hundreds of innocent citizens were martyred and wounded, most of whom were women and children. We affirm that this heinous, cowardly terrorist crime would not have occurred without the orders and directives of the United States of America, France, and other Western countries, which continue to provide all forms of support, financing, arming, and training, including chemical weapons, to the terrorists present on Syrian territory, and to cover up their crimes. This Western approach has encouraged these terrorists to commit more heinous crimes against Syrian citizens, including continuing to prepare to use toxic materials as weapons, to accuse Syria of them. On this occasion, the Syrian Arab Republic warns of the possibility of terrorists loading these advanced drones with chemical weapons, and therefore, the danger of terrorists possessing and using chemical weapons threatens innocent people in other regions of the world.

The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its categorical rejection of the use of chemical weapons by any party, at any time or place, and confirms that it has not and will not use these weapons because it does not possess them in the first place.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Syria has expressed its clear position, on more than one occasion, that it welcomes the existence of investigation teams affiliated with the Organization, provided that they should be unbiased and impartial, work professionally and away from politicization, and do not turn into a political tool to meet the goals of Western countries known for their hostile positions on Syria since 2011 until now. However, the reality was completely the opposite. Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Technical Secretariat not to yield to the pressures exerted by Western countries and to perform the tasks entrusted to it as stipulated in the Convention. On this occasion, the Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its firm position on the “Investigation and Identification Team, (IIT)” which lacks legitimacy, and which was given a mandate that contradicts the provisions of the Convention. Therefore, Syria, along with other countries, does not recognize the legitimacy of this team and its work and rejects any outputs issued or those that will be issued in the future, based on its respect, adherence and commitment to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Syria emphasizes that achieving the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention represents a very important step in ensuring the establishment of an effective global regime against chemical weapons. However, this will not be achieved without obligating Israel to join the convention and place its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons under international control.

In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic points out that the practices of the Technical Secretariat with countries that accede to the Chemical Weapons

Convention, especially in the current circumstances, do not encourage achieving the universality of the Convention, countries which possess chemical weapons, such as Israel, where no one discusses their threat to regional and international peace and security. As for the countries that join the Convention, such as Syria, they are treated in a way that is not consistent with the minimum level of understanding and positivity.

**Mr. Chairperson,**

Syria calls for international cooperation to confront the illegal restrictions imposed by some well-known countries on the transfer of scientific technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries, and to subject them to illegal unilateral coercive measures against some other countries, with the aim of preventing them from achieving economic and scientific development for their people, and preventing them from using chemistry for peaceful purposes. In clear violation of the provisions of the Convention and international law. In this context, Syria categorically rejects the unilateral coercive measures imposed by the United States of America and some Western countries against Syria in clear and flagrant violation of the provisions of Article Eleven of the Chemical Weapons Convention, the principles of international law, and the Charter of the United Nations. Syria calls on those countries to stop this immoral and inhumane policy.

**Thank you, and please consider this statement as an official document of the 104<sup>th</sup> Session of the Executive Council, and publish it on the public and catalyst websites of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.**