



الجمهورية العربية السورية

Syrian Arab Republic

**Statement of**  
**H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH**  
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**To the OPCW**  
**At the one hundred and fourth session**  
**of the Executive Council**  
**Sub-Item /7-c/: Elimination of the Syrian Chemical Weapons**  
**Programme**

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**English Translation**

### **Firstly - with regard to the reports of the Director-General**

We followed carefully and with interest what was stated in the monthly reports of the Director General, numbered: 118, 119, and 120. Unfortunately, the Director General continues to formulate his monthly reports in a way that presents Syria as an uncooperative state party. There is complete disregard by the Director General in these reports for any Syrian cooperation with the Technical Secretariat. These reports constitute a deviation from the tasks assigned to the Technical Secretariat under the Convention

### **Secondly - with regard to the Syrian monthly reports**

Syria has continuously provided the Technical Secretariat, and through it to the States Parties, with three monthly reports(117-118-119), most recently in the period between July 2023 and September 2023, in which Syria clarified a lot of important information, and corrected much of the non-objective information that tainted the reports of the Director General and the Technical Secretariat.

### **Thirdly: regarding the report of the Director General on the work of the Declarations Assessment Team (DAT)**

We have many objective observations about this report but we do not have enough time to discuss them in detail, but some of them must be mentioned very briefly:

1- This report included a set of subjective information and false accusations, upon which many well-known countries have based their false accusations against Syria in a speculative and non-objective manner.

2- Syria reaffirms that it is continuing its constructive approach and unprecedented cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, and will remain committed to fulfilling its obligations, and is ready to move forward, in accordance with what the Convention stipulates, and with the organized and constructive dialogue.

3- I announce from this platform that Syria welcomes holding the 25<sup>th</sup> Round of Consultations with all members of the Declarations Assessment Team on the dates requested by the Technical Secretariat. The Technical Secretariat has been informed of this matter.

4- Regarding the future roadmap, we have informed the Technical Secretariat that the Syrian National Authority is currently working on its preparation in order to submit it to the Technical Secretariat as soon as possible.

5- Regarding the dual-use chemical that was mentioned in the Secretariat's reports, and for which some countries have already tried to make assumptions and

accusations about the results. Syria has submitted to the Secretariat, on August 16<sup>th</sup> four documents covering all of the Secretariat's technical inquiries. The experts of the Syrian National Authority are ready to discuss this issue further in the future with the Secretariat's team.

**Fourthly - Regarding the classified briefing session on the Syrian chemical file**

The classified briefings have turned into another platform to suggest that Syria is not cooperating, not committed, and that it is obstructing the work of the Technical Secretariat. The last classified briefing which took place on September 28<sup>th</sup> included the use of non-objective language, meant to direct a false accusation against Syria of not cooperating with the Technical Secretariat.

As for the Fact-Finding Mission, Syria calls on the Secretariat and the States Parties to correct the working methods and approach of this mission, and to oblige it to adhere to the provisions of the Convention, the verification annex, and the terms of reference agreed upon with Syria, while taking into account the objective observations made by some States Parties and external parties concerned about the Organization and its future. .

**Fifthly: Regarding the Technical Secretariat's Note on the Syrian chemical file after Ten years**

First, we do not know the reasons that prompted the Secretariat to prepare such a Note. It falls within the framework of heating the atmosphere to put more pressure on Syria.

This Note in terms of its form and narration of events, was successful and objective, but the conclusions and the way it presented the Syrian chemical file from October 14, 2013 until now raises many questions about the intentions behind it.

In Paragraph 17 of the Note, the Secretariat refers to 24 Rounds of Consultations, but what is interesting is that it merely states: Syria provided the required security and logistical support. There is not even a single reference to Syria's cooperation and the facilities it provided to the DAT. Although what Syria actually provided was not matched by any other state party in the history of the Organization.

In paragraph 22, the Secretariat states: "All of the above issues raise concerns about the possible existence of undeclared stockpiles of chemical weapons, activities and/or facilities." This statement is a false and baseless accusation, and it confirms what Syria was saying, that the Technical Secretariat is

not neutral and is under pressure from Western countries to level these false accusations

In Paragraph 47 of the Note, the OPCW's Technical secretariat acknowledges in a Note issued on September 27, 2023, in paragraph 47, that Syria provided it with more than 200 messages about terrorist attempts to prepare to fabricate incidents of the use of toxic substances as weapons in order to accuse the Syrian government of them. The Technical Secretariat states in that regard that such a connection has never appeared between the content of these Syrian Notes and the Secretariat's investigations. 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 Syrian terrorists and their use of them in more than one incident that occurred against Syrian civilians and members of the Syrian Arab Army, with instructions from the United States, France, Turkey and some other Western countries.

In this context, The Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, 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 also been organizing and encouraging the use of chemical weapons.

These 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 attacking one of the military academies in Syria, with drones, on October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023, during the graduation ceremony of its officer cadets, in which hundreds of innocent citizens were wounded, most of whom were killed including women and children. We affirm that this heinous, cowardly terrorist crime would not have occurred without the orders and directives of the United States, 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. 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.

In the end paragraph 58 we read that: “These matters raise continuing concerns about the possible existence of undeclared stockpiles of chemical weapons, undeclared activities or facilities, and the possibility of further use of chemical weapons.” This is a false and baseless accusation, and is consistent with the clear politicization of the work of this Organization.

In Paragraph 62 of the note, the Organization turns into an international judicial body and takes on the powers of the Security Council. The paragraph reads: “The Syrian Arab Republic remains under the watchful eye of the Organization’s policy-making bodies. The Convention and the Organization’s work contribute to ensuring that those identified as perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons must be held accountable.”

Finally, we confirm that what is included in this Note is a departure from the provisions of the Convention and shows with conclusive evidence the extent of the politicization of the work of this Organization, specifically the Syrian chemical file.

**Thank you, and I hope that this statement will be considered an official document of the 104th session of the Executive Council, and published on the General website and Catalyst.**