



الجمهورية العربية السورية

Syrian Arab Republic

Statement of

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Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic

To the OPCW

EC-104-Subitem 7(f): Addressing the Threat From Chemical Weapons Use

English Translation

Mr. Chairperson,

We have reviewed what was stated in the report of the Director General issued in Document No. EC-104/DG.20 dated September 25th, 2023, on the progress achieved in implementing Resolution C-SS-4/DEC.3. Regarding this topic, we state the following:

1- No one in this hall rejects, in principle, the necessity of confronting the use of chemical weapons. But let us describe the issue realistically and accurately. Some Western countries, especially the United States, France, and Britain, use this important address to achieve political goals against specific countries. As for the other countries, they reject, from a moral and humanitarian standpoint, the use of chemical weapons by any party. The question we pose to all States Parties participating in this meeting is: How can the threat arising from the use of chemical weapons be addressed in light of the support, financing and arming of terrorists in Syria and other places in the world by some Western countries, in particular, the United States, France and Britain? , including chemical weapons. This is well established, confirmed and declared, and there are many documents and evidence to support this.

2- Syria has a real interest in confronting the threat arising from the use of chemical weapons, because the Syrian people have been the biggest victim of the use of toxic substances as weapons in more than one incident, by armed terrorist groups and their sponsors in Syria, not to mention the attempts of some Western countries to use these incidents as an excuse so that they may use these fabricated and alleged incidents in order to put pressure on Syria, and that includes finding an excuse for carrying out direct military aggression against Syria on more than one

occasion and planning to carry out acts of direct aggression against Syria in the future.

3- In this report, the Director General repeated a lot of subjective information, including accusing Syria of obstructing the work of the Technical Secretariat as a result of its failure to fulfill its obligations and its lack of cooperation with the Secretariat, and this is an absolutely baseless accusation.

4- The Syrian Arab Republic reaffirms its frank and clear position rejecting the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties / June 2018. This decision is politicized and contradicts the provisions of the Convention, and was imposed through voting, and received the support of only (82) countries out of (193) States parties.

5- Regarding the illegitimate “Investigation and Identification Team (IIT)” Syria reiterates its refusal to recognize it and deal with it, because it was created with an illegal basis and authority, and the mandate assigned to this team is illegal and not based on the Convention. The reports issued by this team until this point, the latest of which is the report on the alleged Douma incident in 2018, prove with conclusive evidence the extent of politicization and the goals for which it was created.

6- The goals for which this team was established are becoming clearer day after day, which is to write false reports and mention specific names, with the aim of attaching false and dishonest accusations to Syria, and then working to take revenge on her and distort her image.

7- What was raised by Syria, some other countries, researchers, experts, and former inspectors in the Organization about the reports of this illegal team was ignored by the Technical Secretariat and the countries that claim their keenness to

faithfully implement the provisions of the Convention and the principles of international law. They have even praised it and cheered it describing its work as professional and honest, because it wrote all what serves the political agendas of Western countries.

8- Syria reaffirms its categorical rejection of the use of chemical weapons by any party, in any place, and under any circumstances. We call on Western countries to stop manipulating and violating the provisions of the agreement.

Out of our concern for the Organization and its future, we stress the necessity of correcting the legal violation that was committed through the establishment of this team, as well as correcting the work methods of the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and its approach, which is in flagrant violation of the texts of the Convention and the terms of reference that were agreed upon with the Syrian government.

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 OPCW Website and Catalyst.