



الجمهورية العربية السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

Statement by
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Republic
To the OPCW

At the 106th Session of the Executive Council

The Hague, 9-12 July 2024

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to extend my congratulations to H.E. Ambassador Andrés Terán Parral, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ecuador to the OPCW, on his election as Chairperson of the Executive Council, and we wish him success in managing the work of this session.

My delegation joins the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China Parties to the Convention, which was delivered by H.E the Ambassador of Uganda.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic has implemented all of its obligations pursuant to the process of its accession to the Convention, and has exerted its utmost efforts and worked with diligence, commitment, credibility and transparency during the past eleven years. It has fully cooperated with the Technical Secretariat of the Organization and its teams and provided all the facilitations required for the success of its missions. During the period from November 2023 to May 2024, three rounds of consultations were held between the experts of the Syrian National Authority and the Declaration Assessment Team, during which Syria provided all the cooperation and facilitations required of it to make this team's mission a success, not only from a logistical standpoint, but also by providing all the substantive

information required. The consultations resulted in resolving three outstanding issues in the Syrian initial declaration. Despite all this, the Organization's Technical Secretariat and some Western countries are trying to anticipate the results of those ongoing consultations between Syria and the teams of Technical Secretariat, by making politicized accusations that have no basis at all. Accusing Syria of non-cooperation and that it is still hiding a chemical program.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic confirms that Western countries continue to violate the provisions of the Convention, and to exert all forms of pressure on the Technical Secretariat of the Organization. They refuse to hear any opinion that contradicts their directives or that does not serve their political agendas. The adoption and passing of the decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June 2018, and the resulting establishment of an illegal Team constituted a flagrant violation of the provisions of the Convention. There are many examples of these violations, the most recent of which was the violation of what was stipulated in Paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, by excluding the Russian Federation from membership of the Executive Council, in addition to adopting many politicized decisions through voting and moving away from consensus.

The United States of America and some Western countries have turned the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons into an arena for settling their aggressive, colonial, geopolitical scores, with some countries that do not conform to their policies. The independence of this Organization has become at stake, and it is no longer qualified to achieve its purposes in light of this reality. It has become difficult to restore its credibility and carry out the tasks assigned to it. As a result of political interference by Western countries, the Organization is currently facing a crisis of credibility, disagreement, polarization, and divisions within it. Western countries continue this approach by adopting politicized decisions targeting some States Parties to the Convention by resorting to voting. The best example of this is the politicized decision that was adopted through voting in the 28th Session of the Conference of States Parties against Syria. This very controversial decision, which does not reflect the will of all States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention, but rather reflects the will of only 69 States out of 193. This decision, which contradicts the provisions of the Convention and the mandate of the Organization, was built on fabrications, lies and deception. These are false and baseless accusations, and represent another dangerous step towards this Organization losing its credibility, and it serves to achieve goals that conflict with the Organization's goals. This voting result indicates that more than Two-Thirds of the States Parties to the Convention reject this destructive Western approach and behavior. What is happening in the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is part of a pattern of

geopolitically motivated deception operations that were carried out three decades ago in Iraq and other places in the world, and there is much evidence of this.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic categorically rejects the targeting of the Russian Federation by Western countries, especially their recent attempts to make false accusations against Russia of using toxic chemicals as weapons in Ukraine, as Western countries are using the same scenario they followed against Syria, in targeting and accusing Russia on false and completely baseless allegations after they failed to achieve their anti-Syrian and anti-Russian political agendas.

Mr. Chairperson,

The current session of the Executive Council is being held while we are living the chapters of the war of genocide and ethnic cleansing waged by the army of the Zionist entity -Israel - with American-Western weapons against the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, for more than nine months, which led to the martyrdom of more than 38 thousand persons, most of whom are children and women. More than 85 thousand others were injured, and more than 90 percent of the homes and buildings in the Gaza Strip were destroyed,

with direct political and military support from the United States of America and some Western countries. This war and crimes against humanity have revealed the justice of the Palestinian cause at the global level, and at the same time the criminal truth of the Zionist entity has been revealed, and the false claims of the United States of America and some Western countries about human rights, democracy, and other slogans which they constantly use. The war of extermination on Gaza has revealed the truth about the principles of freedom and democracy that Western countries have called for. It turns out that it is based on lies and hypocrisy. The best example of this is the continued provision of all forms of political, military and economic support to Israel, and the unprecedented brutal repression that university students were subjected to in many Western countries simply because they spoke the truth and rejected the blind bias that their political leaders have towards Zionism, and demanded an end to the crimes of genocide against the Palestinian people. University campuses in the United States, France, and Germany have turned into another Guantánamo. It has become clear that the United States of America and some Western countries are real partners in the crimes of genocide committed by the Zionist entity against the Palestinian people, and through their policies they encourage the Zionist entity to continue this war of genocide, its crimes and repeated attacks on Syrian territory

In this context, we affirm our support for the State of Palestine's request to investigate incidents of the Zionist entity's use of chemical weapons

against the Palestinian people in Gaza and the West Bank. We call on the Technical Secretariat to move and carry out its tasks in accordance with its mandate, as the Technical Secretariat has moved in other places. The excuse that there is no evidence and that the security situation does not allow for investigation is unacceptable, and demonstrates double standards. The question is: Did the investigation teams of the Technical Secretariat visit the sites of the alleged incidents in Syria? The answer is no. For your information only, in all the reports issued by the Organization regarding alleged incidents in Syria, the Organization's teams did not feel it was necessary to visit the sites of those incidents at all.

Mr. Chairperson,

Chemical terrorism constitutes one of the grave dangers to international peace and security. What we regret is that the Technical Secretariat of the Organization, as an international Organization, has ignored 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 enlisted on the Security Council's lists as terrorist entities, such as the Organization of Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (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, including chemical weapons that have been used by terrorists on multiple occasions.

These reports confirm the warnings issued by Syria since 2011, and the Notes in which Syria informed the Security Council, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and the Technical Secretariat of the OPCW, of the preparations that terrorists are making in Syria to use chemical weapons, and of multiple cases in which these weapons have been used, in more than one incident against civilian citizens and members of the Syrian Arab Army, without these notes receiving any attention from the Organization's Technical Secretariat. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic confirms that the behavior of Western countries has doubled the danger of chemical terrorism and encouraged terrorist Organizations to possess chemical weapons and use them against Syrian civilians and Syrian Arab Army forces, which Western countries in the Organization have responded to with complete disregard and complete adoption of the narratives of terrorist groups, rather using these narratives as a pretext for military aggression against Syria, such as the tripartite US-French-British aggression in 2018 against Syria, and accusing Syria of using chemical weapons.

In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic calls on all States Parties to the Convention to adhere to what is stipulated in Paragraph 18 of Security Council Resolution 2118, and all decisions issued by the Executive Council of the Organization and the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, all of which emphasize refraining from providing any form of support for Non-State actors that attempt to develop nuclear, chemical or

biological weapons and their means of delivery, or to acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use such weapons and means. In this regard, we point out that the remaining strongholds of international terrorism on Syrian territory are spread in the areas under the control of the American and Turkish occupations in Northeastern, Northwestern, and Southeastern Syria.

Mr. Chairperson,

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 Chemical Weapons Convention and the rest of the international Conventions related to preventing the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Israel is still covering up its arsenals of weapons of mass destruction and refuses to join the Chemical Weapons Convention, with cover and assistance from the United States of America. In this regard, we recall what the Minister of Heritage in the current Government of this entity stated a few months ago, that one of the Israeli options is to strike the people of Gaza with nuclear weapons. This statement confirms what Israel has been hiding about the fact that it possesses this weapon outside international control systems, with the support of its allies in the American administration and some Western countries, which constitutes a serious threat to the security, stability, and lives of the peoples of the region. This official

public statement did not receive any attention from the Western countries supporting the Israeli entity.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Syrian Arab Republic supports what was stated in the professional and substantive document No. EC-106/NAT.3 dated June 7, 2024, which was submitted by the People's Republic of China to the Technical Secretariat and the States Parties regarding the progress achieved in terms of completing the destruction of the chemical weapons left behind by Japan in the territory of China. We urge Japan to adhere to what was agreed upon with China, in order to preserve the safety of the lives of the Chinese people, their property, the environment and the ecology. Although China has clearly mentioned Japan's failure to implement its obligations under the relevant Executive Council decisions and what was agreed upon with the Chinese side, the Director-General, in his report issued in Document No. EC-106/DG.16 dated July 1, 2024, did not indicate this failure at all, and did not address China's concerns and the facilitations and assistance that China provided to Japan in an effective manner, to accomplish what was required of it.

Mr. Chairperson,

Syria calls for international cooperation to confront the illegal restrictions imposed by the United States, the European Union and some other Western countries on the transfer of scientific technology for peaceful purposes to developing countries, subjecting them to illegal unilateral coercive measures, with the aim of preventing them from achieving economic and scientific development for their peoples, and prevent them from using chemistry for peaceful purposes in clear violation of the provisions of the Convention and International Law. In this context, the Syrian Arab Republic confirms that the United States and its allies continue to impose policies of hegemony, siege, coercion, and unilateral coercive measures. These measures represent a tool for coercion, economic pressure, and political blackmail, and violate the United Nations Charter and the relevant United Nations General Assembly decisions, most notably Resolution 2625 issued on October 24, 1970. It has become clear that those who violate United Nations resolutions and the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Convention are the United States of America, the European Union, and some other countries. Above all, we hear from these countries talk about what they call the “rules-based system” as an alternative to the Charter of the United Nations and the principles and rules of international law, but what is certain is that this system aims to achieve narrow political, military and economic interests for the United States of America and its allies only, and justifies the practice of acts

of aggression, occupation and plundering of the wealth of many countries, including Syria, where the United States of America is depriving the Syrian people of their national wealth particularly in Northeastern Syria, in addition to training and sponsoring terrorists in that region.

The decision that Western countries worked to impose and pass at the 28th Session of the Conference of States Parties for the year 2023, falls within the framework of illegal and immoral unilateral coercive measures, which represents the will of 69 States Parties to the Convention out of 193 states, in flagrant violation of the provisions of the Convention. Articles 10 and 11 of the Chemical Weapons Convention, and in furtherance of imposing more illegal coercive measures, which, with their wide-ranging effects, constitute a direct and comprehensive war against the human rights and humanitarian needs of all Syrians, and undermines the means to restore their security, stability and livelihoods.

Thank you, and I request that this statement be considered an official document of the 106th Session of the Executive Council, and published on the General OPCW Website and Catalyst.