



الجمهورية العربية السورية
Syrian Arab Republic

بيان

السفير ميلاد عطية

المندوب الدائم لدى منظمة حظر الأسلحة الكيميائية

رئيس وفد الجمهورية العربية السورية

أمام الدورة المائة وستة للمجلس التنفيذي

البند الخامس من جدول الأعمال: المناقشة العامة

9-12 تموز 2024

H.E Ambassador Milad ATIEH

Permanent Representative of Syrian Arab Republic

To the OPCW

AGENDA ITEM FIVE – General debate

9-12 July 2024

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Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset, I extend my congratulations to Your Excellency on your election as Chairman of the Executive Council, and we wish you success in managing the work of this session. My delegation joins the statement of the Non-Aligned Movement and China for this session delivered by H.E Ambassador of Uganda.

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, Syria welcomed, in good faith, the holding of rounds of consultations between the experts of the Syrian National Authority and the Declaration Assessment Team. Three rounds of consultations were held, during which Syria provided everything required of it. The Technical Secretariat was provided with all the required substantive information. The results of the consultations lead to resolving three outstanding issues in the Syrian initial declaration. There are several other issues that can

be resolved easily. Despite all this, we were surprised that the explanations provided by Syria regarding the results of the analysis of the samples collected by the Declaration Assessment Team in 2023 were not accepted, and other new outstanding issues were added. Since 2018, the Organization's Technical Secretariat and some Western countries have been trying to anticipate the results of those ongoing consultations between Syria and the Technical Secretariat Teams, by making completely baseless politicized accusations and paving the way for adding new outstanding issues through those accusations. In addition to that, the false accusation of Syria not cooperating and that it is still hiding a chemical program.

Syria will continue its cooperation with the Technical Secretariat, provided that this cooperation is in good faith, in a way that preserves Syria's sovereignty and dignity and ensures that this file is dealt with professionally, fairly and impartially, away from politicization.

The Syrian Arab Republic confirms that Western countries continue to violate the texts and provisions of the Convention, and to exert all forms of pressure on the Technical Secretariat of the Organization. There are many vivid examples of what we say:

- 1- The adoption and of the Decision of the Fourth Special Session of the Conference of States Parties in June 2018, by some well-known Western

countries, and the resulting establishment of an illegal team, the Investigation and Identification Team(IIT).

2- Violating what is stipulated in Paragraph 23 of Article VIII of the Convention, by excluding the Russian Federation from membership of the Executive Council.

3- The politicized decision that was adopted by voting at the 28th Session of the Conference of States Parties against Syria. That decision represents the will of only 69 countries out of 193. It is a decision that contradicts the provisions of the Convention, and gives legitimacy to the illegitimate Western unilateral coercive measures against Syria.

There is not enough time to mention all the other examples of decisions adopted by voting without 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 States Parties that do not go along with their policies, so the independence and credibility of this Organization has become at stake. This is not only the opinion of Syria, but of the majority of States Parties to this Organization. I ask all the distinguished delegations present here: Did you notice that 80% of the statements of some well-known countries are devoted to leveling politically motivated accusations against the Russian Federation and Syria? This is a technical Organization, not the

Security Council, the General Assembly, or a political forum. In this regard, we categorically reject the Western escalation against Russia and its accusation of using chemical weapons in Ukraine, and we affirm that the script being followed now with Russia is the same that was followed with Syria.

As we gather here, today I cannot fail to mention the war of genocide and ethnic cleansing waged by the army of the Zionist entity - Israel, with direct military and political support by the United States of America and some Western countries against the Palestinian people, especially in Gaza, for more than nine months. 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.

The Syrian Arab Republic affirms that the United States and its allies continue to impose policies of hegemony, siege, coercion, and unilateral coercive measures, which constitute a violation of the provisions of the Convention, the principles of international law, and the Charter of the United Nations.

Syria has suffered from terrorism, including chemical terrorism, over the past 13 years, and still does. In this regard, we emphasize 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, as well as the possibility of using them in other places in the world, in flagrant violation of the provisions of Paragraph 18 of Security Council Resolution 2118, and all relevant decisions issued by the Organization's Executive Council and the United Nations Security Council.

Achieving the universality of the Chemical Weapons Convention cannot be attained without obligating Israel to join the Chemical Weapons Convention. Israel possesses a very large arsenal of all types of weapons of mass destruction outside any international control mechanism because it enjoys unparalleled cover and support from Western countries.

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