

Statement by Ambassador Paul Teesalu
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Estonia to the OPCW
at the 109th session of the Executive Council of the OPCW – Agenda subitem 6 (c)
9th July 2025

Mr. Chairperson,

Since this is the first time for me to take the floor, I would like to begin by welcoming Ambassador Thomas Schieb of Germany in this new important role, and wish him every success in guiding the work of the Executive Council. I would also like to commend the unwavering leadership of the Director-General Ambassador Fernando Arias. Estonia has full confidence in the professionalism, impartiality, and technical expertise of the OPCW Technical Secretariat and its established mechanisms.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to thank the Director-General for the detailed report as well as the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic for his presentation.

Estonia takes note of the fact that new Syrian transitional authorities have informed the Secretariat that they do not have the knowledge needed to identify what elements of the Syrian chemical weapons program have not been declared. We commend the Syrian authorities for having extended cooperation to the Secretariat with a view to ridding the country of all chemical weapons and ensuring accountability in cases of use of chemical weapons. We encourage them to ensure Syria coming to full compliance with the Convention as soon as possible. We commend the setting up the Office of Special Missions in the Secretariat, where former different work strands would come together, and are looking forward to closing the Syrian Chemical Weapons file in the foreseeable future.

Thank you.