

**Statement by Dr Nikolaus Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to  
the OPCW, at the 109th Session of  
The Executive Council  
Under agenda item 6 (c)**

(The Hague, 8 – 11 July 2025)

Germany welcomes the unequivocal commitment of the new Syrian government to eliminate all remnants of Assad's chemical weapons program under OPCW control. It is reassuring to hear that the OPCW has obtained unrestricted access to all relevant sites, materials, and information in Syria.

No doubt: The process of securing, verifying, and subsequently destroying the chemical weapons remnants of the Assad regime is highly complex. It requires meticulous preparation and execution. Meanwhile, as we have heard, the risk of proliferation remains high. Until every site is secured, there is a threat that chemical agents and precursors could fall into the wrong hands. This heightens the urgency of the Syria mission.

We commend both the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities for their joint commitment to this unprecedented engagement.

We commend the Technical Secretariat for having prepared the ground for a permanent presence of the OPCW in Damascus, and we hope that the OPCW will be able to start its verification activities shortly. Given the continued proliferation risks it is imperative that the OPCW mission to Syria gets to work quickly. We believe a pragmatic approach in line with the requirements of the Convention and its Verification Annex is necessary in order to speed up the inspection of relevant facilities, the documentation of findings and the securing of remains of Assad's chemical weapons programme with a view to their swift destruction under control of the OPCW. Regarding the difficult conditions under which the OPCW would have to operate, maximum restraint of all parties active in Syria will be imperative to achieve the OPCW's mission objective.

Germany recognizes that visiting over 100 sites in Syria will require a significant expansion in operational deployments and additional resources.

Germany calls on all States Parties who are in a position to do so, to support the Secretariat in helping to accomplish this huge task. Germany stands ready to assist, financially as well as by contributions in kind, as we have done in the past, and we encourage all States Parties to contribute.--