

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of
Germany to the OPCW
at EC-M-68 on 22 July 2025
under agenda item 3**

Chairperson,

Germany is deeply concerned about the military escalation in Syria last week. We urge all sides to take all possible steps towards de-escalation in the region.

We welcome the declared commitment of the new Syrian government to eliminate, under OPCW verification, all remaining chemical weapons of the Assad regime. We commend the close coordination and co-operation between the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian government.

The task ahead is complex: The process of securing, inventorying, verifying, and destroying all chemical weapons of the Assad regime is burdensome and requires personnel, time, finances and commitment. At the same time, the risk of proliferation of chemical weapons and precursor materials remains high. Thus, we welcome the OPCW's tireless efforts to establish a permanent mission for this task in Damascus.

It is of utmost importance to the OPCW members and the international community as a whole to seize the momentum to once and for all close this chapter of one of the gravest cases of non-compliance with the Chemical Weapons Convention. This does not only entail the destruction of chemical weapons but also holding the perpetrators accountable.

To achieve this, maximum restraint of all parties and de-escalation is imperative.

Germany calls on all Syrian and foreign actors to de-escalate and not jeopardize the work of the OPCW and the new Syrian government in their mission to destroy all remaining chemical weapons of the Assad regime.