



IRELAND

**Statement delivered by Mr. Kieran Houlihan,
Deputy Permanent Representative of Ireland to the OPCW**

At the 68th meeting of the Executive Council

22 July 2025

Chairperson, Director General, Distinguished Delegates

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add the following in my national capacity.

Ireland remains strongly committed to peace, security, and prosperity in the Middle East. This includes seeing the region free of chemical weapons. Ireland commends the Syrian transitional authorities' cooperation with the OPCW. This close collaboration with the Secretariat will make it possible to locate and destroy remaining stocks of chemical weapons, removing a threat to international peace and stability.

We thank the Chairperson, His Excellency Ambassador Thomas Schieb and Director General Arias for convening this meeting and we thank His Excellency, Ambassador Mutlaq Al Qahtani of Qatar for seizing States Parties with this serious matter. Director General, Ireland is concerned by your statement.

Ireland is deeply concerned about the security situation in Syria and especially the disturbing inter-communal violence and killing of civilians in the south west of the country. The safety and human rights of all Syrians must be upheld, irrespective of their faith or ethnicity.

We welcome the agreement of a ceasefire and urge all involved to uphold it.

The international community and all neighbouring countries must respect Syria's territorial integrity and avoid all actions that can undermine the OPCW's work. Attacks on Syrian territory put at risk the lives of those working to free the world of chemical weapons and risks vital documentation being lost, directly jeopardising our shared goals under the Chemical Weapons Convention. We note the environment in which the Technical Secretariat operates in Syria is already fragile and challenging, without need of further complication. Therefore, we call on all States to exercise full restraint and refrain from pursuing destabilising acts in Syria and elsewhere.

In conclusion, we wish to express our full support for the work of the OPCW and our gratitude to the Director General and all the Technical Secretariat staff for their dedicated work on the Syria file. Ireland has confidence in the capabilities and expertise of the OPCW to navigate the emerging work with success, and we are pleased to be providing a voluntary financial contribution

for this work. Ireland's commitment to a world free of chemical weapons will remain steadfast, no matter the place, no matter the perpetrator.

Thank you