

Türkiye: Statement by Ms. Pınar Gülün Kayseri, Charge d’Affaires a.i. and Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of Türkiye to the OPCW at the Sixty-Eighth Meeting of the Executive Council under Agenda Item 3 – Request by Qatar as contained in its Letters (dated 16 July 2025)

Mr. Chair,

Türkiye is closely following developments in Syria.

During the last seven months, the new Syrian government has faced numerous challenges vis-a-vis their quest to make Syria stand on its own feet again.

Those challenges have been thwarted as a result of the unity displayed by the Syrian people, the determination of neighboring countries standing together with the Syrian government and the forthcoming approaches of the US, the EU, the Arab League, UN agencies and other important stakeholders.

This promising outlook did not bode well with Israel which apparently has been in a campaign to counter these efforts and opted for sowing the seeds of instability and hostility in the region through its unwarranted attacks, interventions and encroachments towards Syria.

We are concerned that recent airstrikes also target Syria’s relevant capacity to fulfill its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The attacks will also hinder smooth deployments of OPCW experts on the ground.

Thanks to our collective efforts, improvements have been recorded in de-escalating tension.

It is important to ensure the implementation of ceasefire announced by the Syrian President, the prevention of civilian harm and the provision of unfettered access for the humanitarian efforts.

At the end of the day, empowering the Syrian administration and ensuring its control over the entire country is crucial.

It is crucial to avoid recurrence of Israeli aggression as Syria undergoes a very sensitive period.