



Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

State of Israel

Sixty-Eighth meeting of the Executive Council

Statement delivered by

Mr. Yaron Wax

Deputy Ambassador of Israel in the Netherlands

The Hague 22 July 2025

Mr. Chairperson, Director General,

The request for this meeting on behalf of the Syrian government constitutes a misuse and abuse of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and the Executive Council (EC) as such extraordinary sessions should be convened to address “concerns regarding compliance and cases of non-compliance.”

The incident in question bears no relation to chemical weapons, falls outside the scope of the convention, and is unrelated to the OPCW’s mandate or responsibilities.

Over the past week we have seen a wave of violence, carried out by violent mobs, and directed by jihadist militias, committing a massacre, and slaughtering hundreds from the Druze community in the Sweida area in southern Syria. This is happening in an area close to Israel’s border, in breach of the demilitarization policy.

For this reason, Israel carried out precise strikes, primarily against jihadist militias in southern Syria, in order to prevent these atrocities, and the continued persecution of the Druze community. As a result of these actions a ceasefire was agreed and armed forces returned to Damascus.

We do not seek to involve ourselves in Syria’s internal politics. Our interests are limited, clear, and legitimate.

Following the developments in Syria since the fall of the Asad regime, Israel welcomes the prospect for the elimination of the chemical weapons program in Syria, and commends the substantial efforts and activities of the Technical Secretariat and other member states in this regard.

While we note the expressed commitment of the Syrian authorities to cooperate with these efforts, it should also be clear that this is the responsibility of Syria in line with its obligations under the convention.

In this context it is vital to ensure that no elements of the CW program in Syria fall into the hands of unauthorized radical elements, and this meeting should not be used as an attempt to divert attention as an excuse by Syria to hinder the efforts towards the complete and verified destruction of the remnants of the chemical weapons program.

Allow me to reaffirm that Israel, as a signatory state, shares the values, norms and goals that the convention represents and promotes.

We would like to request that this statement be designated as an official document of this meeting and be posted on both Catalyst and the public website.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.