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سفارة الجزائر بهاي

ALGERIA

**Statement by H.E. Ambassador Salima Abdelhak
Permanent Representative of the People's Democratic Republic of
Algeria to the OPCW
on Agenda Item 6(c) Elimination of any remnants of the Assad-Era Syria
Chemical Weapons programme**

The Hague, 10-13 March 2026

Mr. Chairperson,

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. My delegation takes note of the Director-General's comprehensive report on the progress in the elimination of the Syrian chemical weapon program which underline the encountered challenges and the registered progress.

The progress may not be optimal but they are real. The engagement of the Syrian authorities at the highest level, the regular deployment of the technical secretariat staff in Syria, the establishment of the special mission office in Damascus, the identification of sites and the recovery of documents are all illustrating concrete advancements on the Syria dossier.

The incident involving the cylinders raises important questions, particularly regarding the safety and security of the sites. The disappearance of these cylinders, without sufficient information from the Syrian national authorities, may give rise to transparency concerns. At the same time, this issue must be considered in the broader context of Syria's overall security situation.

We have taken note of the exchange of letters between Syria and the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian non paper on the matter. This exchange can be described as responsible on the part of the Secretariat, and both genuine and made in good faith on the part of Syria. We strongly

encourage this constructive cooperation between the two parties to continue.

Mr Chairperson,

We express our appreciation to the permanent representative of Syria for his regular interaction with member states but also with regional group as for Africa group. We thank him for his supplementary information has shared with us today regarding the challenges Syria is confronted to.

This is not new. My delegation, along with others, recalls that the representatives of Syria have, since their first participation, highlighted challenges related to limited resources and gaps in technical expertise, with site safety being undoubtedly one of them.

The Secretariat has consistently appealed to States Parties to provide support, both in terms of resources and technical assistance, to help address these challenges. Appreciation is due to those States Parties that have made voluntary contributions. Nevertheless, we believe that technical expertise, particularly regarding the safety of sites,—is of critical importance. We encourage the Secretariat, together with States Parties that possess such expertise, to continue offering their assistance to Syria in this regard and in light of the results of the inquiry being conducted by Syria on the cylinder incident to identify and enable Syria and the Secretary to address any existing gap.

Mr. Chairperson,

The positive developments on Syria dossier require our full support as they provide undoubtedly, valuable opportunity to ensure complete and comprehensive destruction of the Syria chemical weapons. The decision on expedited on-site destruction of any remnants of chemical weapons will contribute to the elimination of the threats they might pose to the security not only in Syria but in the whole region.

Noting the renewed engagement by Syria's new government through several positive steps undertaken so far, my delegation supports considering Syria recovering its full rights under this convention and regaining its place within the organization

I thank you for your attention.