

**Statement of Dr. Nikolaus J. Korczynski, Deputy Permanent Representative of Germany to  
the OPCW  
at EC-111 on 11 March 2026  
under agenda item 6 c**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

Both the Technical Secretariat and the Syrian authorities deserve our praise for their efforts and dedication in tackling the remnants of Assad's chemical weapons programme in difficult circumstances.

In particular, Germany welcomes the steady progress achieved by the TS, in close cooperation with the Syrian government, in collecting information about essential sites and materials in Syria.

Whatever remnants of the chemical weapons programme will be found, they will need to be destroyed swiftly and in a verifiable manner. This is important in order to effectively counter the threat of proliferation, which means, in plain language, to prevent chemical agents, precursors, munitions or equipment from falling into the hands of nefarious actors.

We regret the incident concerning what appears to be unverified destruction of the 75 cylinders.

In this context, we appreciate the swift steps taken by the Syrian National Authority to retrace the cylinders and to inform the TS about the incident without delay. It is important that any future destruction activity be implemented in accordance with the Convention.

Faced with difficult tasks ahead, we stand ready to lend the new Syria our assistance, in particular regarding equipment and training measures. We also commend the assistance made available by the TS for Syria, and underline the importance for voluntary donors to help cover the needs of the Syria Trust Fund both this year and in 2027.

Germany is doing her part. In December, we contributed 2 million Euros to the Syria Trust Fund.

We are very happy to see that partners contributed, too, financially as well as in-kind. We would like to encourage all States Parties that possess relevant capabilities, to offer support to the Secretariat as well as to Syria.

Germany is confident that, following sufficient progress in the elimination of remaining chemical weapons in Syria, the Executive Council will be able to decide on restoring the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic in the foreseeable future.

Thank you. --