



112th Session
7 – 10 July 2026

EC-112/DG.2
24 March 2026
Original: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL

PROGRESS IN THE ELIMINATION OF THE SYRIAN CHEMICAL WEAPONS PROGRAMME

1. In accordance with subparagraph 2(f) of the decision by the Executive Council (the Council) at its Thirty-Third Meeting (EC-M-33/DEC.1, dated 27 September 2013), the Technical Secretariat (the Secretariat) is to report to the Council on a monthly basis regarding the implementation of that decision. In accordance with paragraph 12 of United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013), the report by the Secretariat is also to be submitted to the Security Council through the Secretary-General.
2. The Council, at its Thirty-Fourth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Detailed Requirements for the Destruction of Syrian Chemical Weapons and Syrian Chemical Weapons Production Facilities” (EC-M-34/DEC.1, dated 15 November 2013). In paragraph 22 of that decision, the Council decided that the Secretariat should report on its implementation “in conjunction with its reporting required by subparagraph 2(f) of Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1”.
3. The Council, at its Forty-Eighth Meeting, adopted a decision entitled “Reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria” (EC-M-48/DEC.1, dated 4 February 2015), noting the Director-General’s intent to include reports of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Syria (FFM), along with information on the Council’s discussion thereof, as part of the monthly reporting pursuant to United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013). Similarly, the Council, at its Eighty-First Session, adopted a decision entitled “Report by the Director-General Regarding the Declaration and Related Submissions by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-81/DEC.4, dated 23 March 2016), noting the Director-General’s intent to provide information on the implementation of that decision.
4. The Council, at its Eighty-Third Session, adopted a decision entitled “OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism Reports on Chemical Weapons Use in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-83/DEC.5, dated 11 November 2016). In subparagraph 12(a) of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall “regularly inform the Council on the implementation of this decision and incorporate information regarding the implementation of this decision into his monthly reporting to the United Nations Security Council, through the United Nations Secretary-General, regarding EC-M-33/DEC.1”.
5. The Council, at its Ninety-Fourth Session, adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-94/DEC.2, dated 9 July 2020). In paragraph 12 of that decision, the Council decided that the Director-General shall “regularly report to the Council on the



implementation of this decision and decide[d] also that the Director-General shall provide a copy of this decision and its associated reports by the Secretariat to all States Parties and to the United Nations Security Council and the United Nations General Assembly through the United Nations Secretary-General”.

6. The Conference of the States Parties (the Conference), at its Twenty-Fifth Session, adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Possession and Use of Chemical Weapons by the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-25/DEC.9, dated 21 April 2021). In paragraph 8 of this decision, the Conference decided that the Director-General shall regularly report to the Council and States Parties on whether the Syrian Arab Republic has completed all of the measures contained in paragraph 5 of Council decision EC-94/DEC.2.
7. The Council, at its 110th Session, adopted a decision entitled “Expedited On-Site Destruction of Any Remnants of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic” (EC-110/DEC.1, dated 8 October 2025).
8. This, the 150th monthly report, is therefore submitted in accordance with the aforementioned Council and Conference decisions and includes information relevant to the period 24 February to 23 March 2026.

Obligations undertaken by the Syrian Arab Republic as a State Party to the Chemical Weapons Convention

9. The Syrian Arab Republic acceded to the Chemical Weapons Convention (the Convention) on 14 September 2013. The Convention entered into force for this State Party on 14 October 2013. To date, as regularly and consistently reported by the Secretariat, the work to verify the Syrian Arab Republic’s initial declaration of its chemical weapons programme has continued, and due to the numerous gaps, discrepancies, and inconsistencies uncovered by the Secretariat over more than 11 years, this declaration still cannot be considered as accurate and complete.
10. As previously reported, all legal obligations binding upon the Syrian Arab Republic as a State Party to the Convention remain valid, regardless of any change in government. Council decision EC-M-33/DEC.1 and United Nations Security Council resolution 2118 (2013) (both dated 27 September 2013) continue to provide the relevant legal framework for the Secretariat’s efforts under the Convention aimed at eliminating the Syrian chemical weapons programme.
11. The transfer of power to new authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2024 presents an opportunity for the Organisation to obtain clarifications on the full extent and scope of the Syrian chemical weapons programme, and to ensure the Syrian Arab Republic’s long-term compliance with the Convention.
12. The Secretariat has continued to reiterate to the Permanent Representation of the Syrian Arab Republic to the OPCW, including through Note Verbale NV/ODG/OSM-19/25 of 10 December 2025, the need to preserve the integrity of declared and suspected chemical weapons locations and to provide the Secretariat with copies of all documentation and archival materials, as well as information on any other materials discovered at these locations, including any electronic equipment and devices available.

Progress achieved by the Syrian Arab Republic in meeting the requirements of Executive Council decisions EC-M-33/DEC.1 and EC-M-34/DEC.1

13. Progress by the Syrian Arab Republic is as follows:
- (a) As stated in previous reports, the Secretariat has verified the destruction of all 27 chemical weapons production facilities declared by the Syrian Arab Republic.
 - (b) The latest monthly report shared by the Syrian National Authority with the Secretariat for submission to the Council, regarding activities on its territory related to the destruction of its chemical weapons and chemical weapons production facilities, as required by paragraph 19 of decision EC-M-34/DEC.1, was dated 25 February 2026 and covered the reporting period of 15 January to 15 February 2026. As at the date of this report, no monthly report had been received from the Syrian National Authority for the current reporting period regarding activities on the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic, in line with the above-mentioned obligation.

Progress in the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons by States Parties hosting destruction activities

14. As stated in previous reports, all the chemicals declared by the Syrian Arab Republic that were removed from its territory in 2014 have been destroyed.

Activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decisions EC-81/DEC.4 and EC-83/DEC.5

15. Since 2014, the Secretariat continued to address the shortcomings in the Syrian Arab Republic's initial declaration through the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT).
16. Of the 26 outstanding issues that have been reported by the Secretariat since 2014, 7 have been resolved. The substance of the 19 remaining outstanding issues remained a serious concern to the Secretariat, as it involved large quantities of potentially undeclared and/or unverified chemical warfare agents and chemical munitions. Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic had yet to complete all the measures specified in paragraph 5 of Council decision EC-94/DEC.2.
17. Following the transfer of power to new authorities in the Syrian Arab Republic in December 2024, the Secretariat has continued to address the shortcomings in the initial declaration with the Syrian authorities. In addition to 26 declared chemical weapons-related locations, information available to the Secretariat indicates that over 100 additional locations may have been involved in activities related to chemical weapons.
18. Since March 2025, the Secretariat has been deploying its teams to the Syrian Arab Republic and has started conducting visits to these locations, subject to security and other relevant requirements. The Secretariat has visited more than 20 locations, collected 19 samples, held a number of meetings with the Syrian authorities, and conducted multiple rounds of interviews with former chemical weapons experts.

19. With regard to the previously reported visit to a site in the Aleppo area that took place from 27 to 29 January 2026, as stated in the Syrian Arab Republic's 137th Monthly Report on Activities Related to the Destruction of the Assad Regime's Chemical Weapons and Production Facilities, an investigation was opened by the Army and Armed Forces Command to determine the facts surrounding the disappearance of 75 undeclared cylinders. The Secretariat stands ready to receive information on any relevant findings of the investigation accordingly. The Secretariat is also waiting to receive the results of analysis of samples collected during this visit, as well as the results of analysis of additional samples collected from the site in the Damascus area in January 2026.
20. Based on the information gathered through the Secretariat's deployments since 2025, including the results of the analysis of samples collected, the information obtained through interviews with Syrian chemical weapons experts, and analysis of documents received, at least four locations visited by the Secretariat could be declarable under the Convention. The Secretariat is planning further activities to determine the full scope of chemical weapons-related activities conducted at these locations and their subsequent declarability.
21. As previously reported, on 15 January 2026 the Syrian authorities handed over 34 sealed cardboard boxes containing documents to the Secretariat team in Damascus. Subsequently, on 4 March 2026, the Secretariat's team in Damascus received three additional sealed cardboard boxes of documents from the Syrian authorities.
22. The documents provided by the Syrian authorities represent approximately 50,000 pages. All such documents require individual registration, including metadata, and analysis in the context of the aforementioned 19 outstanding issues and with regard to defining the full scope of the Syrian chemical weapons programme. This process requires significant time, resources, and expertise unique to the Syrian chemical weapons dossier.
23. Secretariat personnel left the Syrian Arab Republic on 17 March 2026. The Secretariat continues to monitor the developments in the region and their impact on the security situation. The next rotation will be deployed once the security conditions for safe travel to and work in the Syrian Arab Republic have been met. The Secretariat also continued to conduct relevant activities at OPCW Headquarters and other locations as required.
24. In accordance with Council decision EC-110/DEC.1, the Secretariat has initiated measures to operationalise the provisions of the decision and ensure consistency with the decision's objectives.
25. In particular, the Secretariat has continued consultations with the Syrian authorities on the implementation of expedited on-site destruction in exceptional cases, as provided for in paragraphs 3 to 6 of decision EC-110/DEC.1. These consultations relate to the development of destruction plans and verification arrangements for an expedited on-site destruction process that ensures that the methods to be used for this process include and take account of, inter alia, a verification process in line with applicable requirements, the safety of personnel, the protection of the environment, and the preservation of evidence related to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

26. The Secretariat remains committed to delivering on its mandate to verify the full implementation by the Syrian Arab Republic of all declaration requirements under the Convention, decisions of the OPCW policy-making organs, and United Nations Security Council resolutions, and will continue to engage with the Syrian authorities on this matter.

Other activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat with respect to the Syrian Arab Republic

27. On 6 November 2025, the Director-General sent a letter to all members of the Council (L/ODG-769/25), in which he noted that States Parties have been fully informed of what the Secretariat has already done in its capacity, and recalled that the Convention clearly distinguishes between the roles of declaring possessor States and the Secretariat. Attached to the letter was a needs and gaps assessment prepared by the Secretariat, following its consultations with the Syrian authorities, notwithstanding written inputs from the Syrian authorities that are pending.
28. The needs and gaps assessment outlines a non-exhaustive list of gaps between what the Syrian Arab Republic must provide and the capacity it has at its disposal. It also informs States Parties and other partners willing to support the Syrian Arab Republic as to what is to be provided for the Secretariat's mandated activities in the Syrian Arab Republic to come to a successful end. The needs and gaps assessment focuses on:
- (a) means and equipment required for safe access to locations, protection of teams, or to support verifiable inventory, storage, transport, and destruction of chemical materials;
 - (b) relevant expertise required to ensure the safety, legality, and credibility of activities to be carried out;
 - (c) training of personnel with relevant expertise to minimise the risk of incidents and chain-of-custody breaks, and to reduce the chance of jeopardising verification activities; and
 - (d) minimum operational requirements for deployment to suspected chemical weapons sites, for regular as well as expedited on-site destruction.
29. On 4 March 2026, the Secretariat conducted a briefing for States Parties on the status of the Secretariat's mandated activities pertaining to the full elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme.
30. The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) continues to provide support to the OPCW Mission to facilitate the Secretariat's mandated activities there. The OPCW and UNOPS extended their Cooperation Agreement regarding UNOPS services for OPCW operations in the Syrian Arab Republic, which is valid until 31 March 2026. The OPCW and UNOPS are currently finalising arrangements to extend the Cooperation Agreement under the same terms and conditions until 30 June 2026.

Activities carried out pursuant to the Technical Secretariat's mandate to establish the facts related to allegations of use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic

31. Guided by Council decisions EC-M-48/DEC.1 and EC-M-50/DEC.1 (dated 23 November 2015), as well as by United Nations Security Council resolution 2209 (2015), the Office of Special Missions continues to study all available information relating to allegations of use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.
32. During the reporting period, the Secretariat team present in the Syrian Arab Republic undertook preparatory activities at the OPCW office in the Syrian Arab Republic aimed at ensuring organisational and logistical readiness in support of activities conducted under the Secretariat's mandate to establish the facts related to allegations of use of toxic chemicals as weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.
33. In addition, the team conducted one coordination meeting with the Syrian authorities, during which the schedule of activities to be undertaken for the period from late February through March 2026 was discussed and agreed, including witness interviews and field visits.
34. During the reporting period, the Secretariat conducted one interview. All scheduled interviews and field visits scheduled from late February through March 2026 were postponed as a result of the ongoing unrest in the region and the related security and safety conditions. The Syrian National Authority informed the Secretariat team of its continued willingness to facilitate access to witnesses and sites of interest in relation to ongoing investigations. The Secretariat also continued to conduct relevant activities at OPCW Headquarters and other locations as required.

Activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat with respect to decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 of the Conference of the States Parties at its Fourth Special Session related to the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic

35. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 (dated 27 June 2018), the Secretariat established the Investigation and Identification Team to identify the perpetrators of the use of chemical weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic by identifying and reporting on all information potentially relevant to the origin of those chemical weapons in those instances in which the Secretariat determines or has determined that use or likely use occurred, and cases for which the OPCW-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism did not issue a report.
36. In accordance with paragraph 12 of C-SS-4/DEC.3, the Secretariat will continue to preserve and provide information to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM), established by the United Nations General Assembly in resolution 71/248 (2016), as well as to any relevant investigatory entities established under the auspices of the United Nations.
37. As previously reported, on 21 January 2026, the Secretariat issued a report entitled "Fifth Report by the OPCW Investigation and Identification Team Pursuant to Paragraph 10 of Decision C-SS-4/DEC.3 'Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use' Kafr Zeita (Syrian Arab Republic) 1 October 2016" (S/2478/2026).

38. In this fifth report, on the basis of all the information obtained, analysed and corroborated, the Secretariat concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe that, on 1 October 2016, between 19:00 and 19:40 (UTC+3), in the context of a military offensive aimed at halting the opposition's advance towards Hama city, an Mi-8/17 helicopter of the Syrian Arab Air Force dropped at least one yellow pressurised cylinder which hit a cave system in the Wadi al-Aanz valley in Kafr Zeita. The helicopter departed from Hama Airbase and operated under the control of the Tiger Forces. The pressurised cylinder impacted near two ventilation openings located approximately 300 metres from the Al Maghara Hospital in Kafr Zeita. Upon impact, the cylinder ruptured and released pressurised chlorine gas, injuring 35 named individuals and affecting dozens more.
39. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Conference decision C-SS-4/DEC.3, through the OSM, the Secretariat continues its investigations to identify perpetrators of chemical weapons use in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat with respect to Executive Council decision EC-94/DEC.2

40. In paragraph 5 of decision EC-94/DEC.2, the Council decided:
- to request, pursuant to paragraph 36 of Article VIII of the Convention, that the Syrian Arab Republic complete all of the following measures within 90 days of this decision in order to redress the situation:
- (a) declare to the Secretariat the facilities where the chemical weapons, including precursors, munitions, and devices, used in the 24, 25, and 30 March 2017 attacks were developed, produced, stockpiled, and operationally stored for delivery;
 - (b) declare to the Secretariat all of the chemical weapons it currently possesses, including sarin, sarin precursors, and chlorine that is not intended for purposes not prohibited under the Convention, as well as chemical weapons production facilities and other related facilities; and
 - (c) resolve all of the outstanding issues regarding its initial declaration of its chemical weapons stockpile and programme.
41. At the end of the 90 days, the Syrian Arab Republic had not completed any of these measures.
42. With regard to the inspections mandated by paragraph 8 of EC-94/DEC.2, the Secretariat continues to closely monitor the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic with a view to deploying for this purpose, provided that favourable security conditions are met.

Activities carried out by the Technical Secretariat with respect to Conference of the States Parties decision C-25/DEC.9

43. In paragraph 7 of decision C-25/DEC.9, the Conference decided, after careful review, and without prejudice to the Syrian Arab Republic's obligations under the Convention, pursuant to subparagraph 21(k) of Article VIII and paragraph 2 of Article XII of the Convention, to suspend several rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Convention.

44. In paragraph 8 of the decision, the Conference decided, inter alia, that the rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic suspended in accordance with paragraph 7 of decision C-25/DEC.9 are reinstated by the Conference once the Director-General has reported to the Council that the Syrian Arab Republic has completed all of the measures stipulated in paragraph 5 of EC-94/DEC.2. As at the date of this report, the Syrian Arab Republic had not completed any of these measures.
45. The Conference, at its Thirtieth Session, adopted a decision entitled “Reinstatement of the Rights and Privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic” (C-30/DEC.8, dated 28 November 2025). In paragraph 1 of that decision, the Conference decided to delegate to the Council the authority, taking into account any progress made, to consider and decide on the reinstatement of the suspended rights and privileges of the Syrian Arab Republic under the Convention. In paragraph 2, the Conference recognised that the purpose of the decision is to respond to the specific circumstances in the Syrian Arab Republic, and that the decision does not create any precedent for the future. The Conference further decided to remain seized of this matter.
46. The Secretariat will continue to engage with the Syrian Arab Republic with regard to the completion of the measures or any progress made and will continue to report to the Council as mandated.

Decision on addressing the threat from chemical weapons use and the threat of future use

47. As previously reported, at its Twenty-Eighth Session, the Conference adopted a decision entitled “Addressing the Threat from Chemical Weapons Use and the Threat of Future Use” (C-28/DEC.12, dated 30 November 2023). The Secretariat is reporting on the elements in the decision concerning the Syrian Arab Republic’s chemical weapons dossier in accordance with existing reporting obligations.

Supplementary resources

48. As at the cut-off date of this report, total contributions and pledges to the Trust Fund for Syria Missions stood at EUR 65.2 million. Contribution agreements had been concluded with Australia, Canada, Chile, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, and the European Union. This does not include the more than EUR 48 million received in the Syria Trust Fund for the Destruction of Chemical Weapons in 2013 and 2014.
49. Given that the Syrian chemical weapons programme still needs to be declared to its full extent and destroyed by the Syrian Arab Republic, with the corresponding verification by the Secretariat, the Organisation will need to rely on support from States Parties for additional financial and human resources to carry out any future missions in the Syrian Arab Republic. The Secretariat will also continue to adapt its presence in the Syrian Arab Republic as appropriate, in line with its anticipated activities.

50. The current funding capacity for OPCW activities in the Syrian Arab Republic totals EUR 16.7 million for 2026, which includes the balance of the Trust Fund for Syria Missions, in addition to contributions and pledges being actualised.
51. To date, additional funding of EUR 0.1 million in 2026 and EUR 12.5 million in 2027 is estimated to be required. This funding is required to maintain and conduct OPCW operations in the Syrian Arab Republic, and to provide capacity-building support to the Syrian authorities for measures to, inter alia, prevent the re-emergence and proliferation of chemical weapons and their use. The Secretariat will continue to keep the Council informed of developments related to its mandated activities in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Conclusion

52. The future activities of the Secretariat in the Syrian Arab Republic will focus on engagement with the Syrian authorities to identify the best way for the Secretariat to continue implementing its mandates in accordance with the Convention and all relevant OPCW decisions and United Nations Security Council resolutions, as well as to support and assist the Syrian authorities in fulfilling all the Syrian Arab Republic's obligations under the Convention.

--- 0 ---