

STATEMENT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
BY H.E. ULF MELGAARD
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF DENMARK TO THE OPCW
AT THE 110th SESSION OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
(The Hague, 7-10 October 2025)

Agenda item 6(c): Elimination of the Syrian chemical weapons programme

I have the honour of speaking on behalf of the European Union (EU).

Andorra, Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Monaco, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Türkiye and Ukraine align themselves with this statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

The European Union welcomes the information shared by the Secretariat with States Parties during the inter-sessional period, as well as the overall progress made in planning. We encourage swift implementation of the next steps with a view to countering the considerable proliferation risks. This requires a clear Council-agreed framework setting out the key parameters for the activities by the Syrian Arab Republic and Secretariat, as well as continued cooperation and engagement by the Syrian transitional authorities.

After more than a decade of lies and obstruction from the Assad regime, the commitment of the Syrian transitional authorities to full cooperation with the OPCW is key to eliminating the chemical weapons in Syria for good. To this effect, the EU underscores the importance of ensuring the OPCW has the necessary resources in the regular budget to fulfil its Syria mandate effectively. We encourage all States Parties to consider providing voluntary financial or in-kind contributions. For its part, the EU is preparing a substantive voluntary financial contribution to support the OPCW's activities in Syria. This support aims to facilitate and secure in-country deployments, verification, and enable the planning for secure destruction of any remaining stocks.

Mr Chairperson,

Responding to the new situation and operational challenges in the Syrian Arab Republic, the Secretariat has adjusted its structures to deliver its mandated activities in a more pragmatic and efficient manner. We look forward to the Secretariat keeping the Executive Council informed of progress made in integrating the mandates, activities and expertise of the three Syria related teams, the Declaration Assessment Team (DAT), the Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) and the Investigation and Identification Team (IIT) into the Office of Special Missions (OSM) without deprioritizing any of them.

The EU commends the staff and work of the OPCW FFM and the IIT, which have been crucial in documenting the use of chemical weapons in Syria and attributing such attacks to the Assad regime and Daesh. While different mechanisms may be pursued for accountability, the shared objective must remain: ending impunity for the use of chemical weapons and rendering justice to the victims. For this purpose, the EU continues to support financially the transfer of IIT evidence files to the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism (IIIM), as well sharing and embedding the knowledge and expertise acquired by the IIT across the Secretariat in line with the Decision of the 4th Special Session of the Conference of State Parties (C-SS-4/DEC.3., paragraphs 12 and 20). This transfer of knowledge will enhance the forensic and investigative capabilities of the Secretariat in assisting States Parties with technical expertise to identify those who were perpetrators, organisers, sponsors, or otherwise involved in the use of toxic chemicals as weapons.

Thank you.

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